DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – August 30, 2026

Our Liturgies

Upcoming Liturgies

Please join us for our in-person and remote liturgies. Our in-person liturgies are always live streamed as well.

Sunday, 8/30 and Sunday, 9/6
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (8/30)
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (9/6)
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 9/13
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@ St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Memorial Service

Our 9/13 liturgy will also be a memorial service for our long-time Dignity Boston presider, Gene Clegg. We hope that you can attend.

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

Hurricane Lala: By now, all of you have heard of the devastating effects of Hurricane Lala. The eye of Lala came to within 25-30 miles of the southern tip of the island of Hawai'I, bringing torrential rain, hurricane-force winds, and massive flash flooding. Some but not all of you know that the hardest hit area was my hometown of Nāʻālehu, the southernmost community in the United States, in the district of Ka'ū. We still have our family home in Nāʻālehu, where we take our mom to stay when we are visiting from the mainland. By the grace of God, none of my family were at the house at the time of the massive flash flood which happened in darkness on Saturday night. Lala caused massive destruction and devastation throughout our town (and others), with trees, boulders, mud, and other debris everywhere, especially in the path of the flash flood. At least two people were swept to their deaths, one, my 92-year-old 1st grade teacher who lived a few houses away from ours. A few homes were completely destroyed, some moved from their foundations, and some heavily damaged. A portion of our small local cemetery was severely disrupted. The full extent of the damage is not yet fully appreciated but will certainly be huge. Let us pray for the people of Hawai'i, that they receive all that they need in this challenging time, that they find the strength to do the hard work of cleaning up and rebuilding, and that they maintain their resilient hope and spirit of aloha in the days, months, and years ahead.

If you are inclined to make a donation to help the people of Hawai'i, I've listed below some 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organizations that are currently on the scene, actively supporting my family, friends, and neighbors, throughout the islands.

World Central Kitchen
Hawai'i Community Foundation
Vibrant Hawaii
American Red Cross

Mahalo (thank you) for your thoughts and prayers,
Ron

Our Social Justice

Supreme Judicial Court Rules Against City of Quincy

As you may have seen in the media, the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court issued an opinion last week, ruling against the City of Quincy and their installation of two statues of saints on a public building. The opinion allowed the injunction against installing the statues to stand. Later action in the lawsuit on the merits of the case can begin. Dignity Boston and DignityUSA were signatories on a friend-of-the court brief. The SJC opinion mentioned all the friend-of-the-court briefs and included Dignity Boston and DignityUSA by name. As David Russo so eloquently said in his church announcements on Sunday, if you're wondering why it's important to become a member of Dignity Boston or DignityUSA, this is it!

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 9/10
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
Meeting minutes and treasury reports are available per request.
All are Welcome!

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 9/27
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Our Featured Article

This Edition's "Did You Know"?

In this edition of "Did You Know," learn about four Dignity Boston musicians, where else they use or have used their musical talent, and what music brings to their lives. Check it out on p. 9 through p. 12.

Our Donations

A New Way to Donate

You can donate to Dignity Boston right here. That link can also be found on our Dignity Boston web site at http://www.dignityboston.org/donate. You can also donate via the QR code image to the left of this article. As an alternative, consider supporting Dignity Boston by contributing at our in-person liturgies or by sending donations to Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. Please make your checks payable to "Dignity Boston". If it is for one of our Second Collections, please write "Second Collection" in the memo field. We thank you for the consideration of any donation to our chapter!

Our Elections

Serve as a Member of the Dignity Boston Board

Our Dignity Boston election process begins in October. Now might be the time to consider whether you'd like to serve our community as an Executive Board member. We currently have four open positions for our 2027 board. You must be a dues-paying member of Dignity for 6 months before running for the board. Serving on the Executive Board is a great way to show your commitment to your faith community of choice, Dignity Boston. There will be most details about the election process including dates for our Nominations Night and Candidates' Night in the September and October Bulletins. Thank you for your consideration!

Our Collaborations

Friday Night Supper Seeks New Board Members and Sponsors

The Friday Night Supper Program (FNSP) is looking for new Board of Director members. The organization is also looking for Group Meal Sponsors to make Friday dinners possible. If you or someone you know may be interested, please email dignityboston@gmail.com or FNSP directly at contact@fridaynightsupper.org Donate to FNSP anytime by clicking here.

Preaching Slam Comes to Boston

Our Parent DignityUSA

Help Church Leaders Understand LGBTQI+ Families

In early October, the Vatican has invited the presidents of all national bishops' conferences and leaders of Eastern churches to a synodal meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of Amoris Laetitia. These church leaders are being asked "to proceed, in mutual listening, to a synodal discernment on the steps to be taken in order to proclaim the Gospel to families today, in light of Amoris Laetitia and taking into account what is currently being done in the local Churches" according to the invitation. The invitation to the meeting also says that those gathered will spend time "welcoming the lived experiences of families; sharing concrete stories of life." However, apart from a brief reference to cohabiting couples, it is clear that the meeting's framework is aimed at addressing heterosexually married couples with children and prioritizes the needs of these families. In an effort to remind those organizing this gathering, as well as its attendees that our church must embrace a wide variety of family configurations, DignityUSA invites our members and friends to submit stories from the full range of families that include LGBTQIA+ people. This can include parents, siblings, grandparents and relatives of LGBTQIA+ people, LGBTQIA+ people who are raising or have raised children who come into the family in a variety of ways, LGBTQIA+ who want to share their experiences of their birth families, LGBTQIA+ people who are family caregivers, LGBTQIA+ people who have created chosen families that do not reflect "traditional" models, and more. We invite you to send a written testimony, an audio recording, or a video, in any language, with your story to the form posted here. You can use your name(s), pseudonym(s), or no name at all. Pictures are welcome but not required. Please note that all materials must be received by 9/12/26.

Our Community

Our Collections

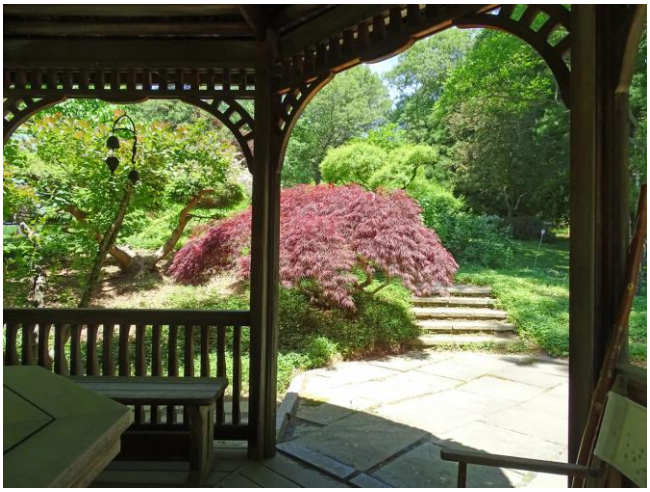
Thank you for supporting our August and September collections!

August Collection

bisexual resource center

Our August Second Collection benefits the Bisexual Resource Center which works to connect the bi+ community and helps its members thrive through resources, support, and celebration. To donate, please click here.

September Collection



Our September Collection benefits the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden. This organization is strongly supported by K.A. and Alice and the Dignity Boston community. Its mission is to optimize the quality of life for adults affected by cancer in Massachusetts. To donate, please click here. The collection basket is passed around for our Second Collections during the first Sunday that we meet in-person each month. Additional in-person liturgies will have a basket labeled and available at the back of the church during church and moved to the Information Table during the post-liturgy social hour for Second Collection donations. At our remote Liturgy of the Word, the Second Collection link will be put into the chat at the start of service.

Our History

Did You Know?

…that some members of our Dignity Boston choir perform elsewhere?

Ron L.

Ron L. started his piano lessons at age five, and now also plays ukelele, viola di gamba (viol in English) and the recorder. Once he started playing music at a young age, he never stopped, having played the organ at Mass in high school and continuing with choral singing through high school, college, and medical school. Ron was part of several church choirs like at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, for example. Living in Boston since 1987, and in spite of his very busy professional life as a pediatric cardiologist, Ron has made it a point to find time for music, not only as a member of the music ministry in Dignity Boston, but also singing in several choral groups. Ron says "I love making music. It challenges my brain in a different way." He sang with the Back Bay Chorale, a large auditioned chorus for a few years in the late 80's. In 2003, he saw an ad for Convivium Musicum, a smaller choir specialized in Renaissance music. He was active with them for 20 years. "This is a music that fits my voice," says Ron, and "frankly rehearsal time is more enjoyable than the performance." Ron continues "There is something powerful about making music together, in community." Currently, Ron is a member of a new choral group Tactus Ensemble Cambridge, a chamber choir specializing in early music. For Ron, music is life giving, and he particularly feels challenged to constantly improve and learn. During COVID, Ron really put his talents to good use for the benefit of our community of Dignity Boston. It was thanks to him being able and willing to put a lot of time and effort, and his ability to learn and be challenged that he was able to find a way to bring music to our Zoom liturgies. While we were all in our separate houses and without sacrificing the health of anyone, Ron, with the participation of many of our Dignity Boston choir members, was able to put together "live" music for our liturgies. Yes, Ron, the music was life giving for our community too!

Robin E.

We know Robin E. as a middle school teacher of languages but she has also been a student of music for many years, starting with piano lessons at age eight. Robin continued her learning, taking piano lessons as an adult for many years and enlisting the help of the music teacher at the school where she taught. Maybe it was meant to be for her to be involved with music as she tells the story of her grandmother, who she never got to meet. Her grandmother taught music - violin and piano - as well as voice and drama. "She even sang at Carnegie Hall", says Robin. Years later Robin also got to perform at Carnegie Hall when the choral group she was singing with joined other New England choral groups in a combined performance. In terms of her family Robin says that her son was in the high school marching band and her grandson Max is in the school choir and drama group. Robin tells us that starting in grammar school and through high school and college, she was very involved with community choral groups, like the Merrimack Choral Society, for example. Since the fall of 2007 Robin has been a member of the Polymnia ("she of the many hymns" in Ancient Greek mythology) Choral Society, founded in 1953 in the North Shore. She says that the group means to bring all kinds of music, from classical and sacred pieces to popular Broadway tunes and pop, to the people. Polymnia produces three major concert events per year. "Together we make beautiful music", say Robin. She says that she likes singing in community and she likes being with other people who like music. Robin says "We can share a 'common thread'. Music brought me community, friendship with people who love singing. We refer to each other as our 'Tuesday family' since our rehearsals are on Tuesdays". We are grateful that Robin chooses to share her love of music with our community.

Michael S.

Michael is also a member of the Polymnia Choral Society that he joined about four years ago but his love of music started with his piano and clarinet lessons in the fifth grade. In high school he played the clarinet in the school band and orchestra. It was during those years in high school that, invited by his clarinet instructor, he joined The Willimantic City Band based in northeastern Connecticut. "I even got paid!", he said. Music for Michael has always been meaningful and fun. Playing piano, he says, was,

for him, an emotional release and he played it at home a lot. In 1994 when he moved to the Boston area, he joined the music ministry at Dignity Boston, mostly as one of the piano accompanists. "Playing piano and singing in Dignity/Boston has always been very meaningful to me. I love the community and the music in our liturgy means a lot personally." Michael says that singing is different that playing, singing is more personal, and it is "profound sharing it with other people." Michael describes Polymnia, his choral group, as a "healthy, resilient place" to put himself in. He has made friends there and feels that singing together invites people to open to each other. Michael believes that we - as human beings - are part of something miraculous, that helps him feel grateful to be alive. "Music helps me connect with that", says Michael. And we at Dignity Boston are happy to witness Michael's gifts as he is part of our music ministry.

Bob H.

…started his piano lessons in third grade, his organ lessons in eighth grade, and his violin playing in high school. He describes his love of music as his avocation, as he has devoted his professional time as a pediatrician. "My major in college was music, but even during medical school I have always devoted a lot of my time to singing, since a voice teacher told me I had perfect pitch. I was surprised then, thinking doesn't everyone?", says Bob. The list of choral groups Bob has been part of is long, starting with his tryout for the Harvard League Club while a Harvard student. Other groups he mentions are the Catholic Church choir at Kansas City Catholic Cathedral, the Concert Corale of Houston, Boston Cantata Singers (for 41 years), Coro Allegro (for 8 years), the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Festival Chorus (12 years) which sings both at Tanglewood and Symphony Hall, Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston (18 years), and then he changed to sing at St. Stephen's (Anglo-Catholic) Church in Providence (25 years) where they sing a concert setting of the Mass every Sunday. A very impressive list, even if he calls it just a hobby! Bob recognizes that he has a "Renaissance voice". He sings "Night Song" once a month at First Church Cambridge, a compline service open to all at which the choir sings Gregorian Chant and Renaissance music. Bob likes the community aspect of singing in a group, and it improves his confidence. Now that he is fully retired and has more time, Bob would like to take voice lessons, keep learning music as an accompanist, and keep up with his organ playing

skills. “Music feeds my spirit, sharing it with other feeds others’ spirit. Sacred music brings me closer to the Divine”, says Bob. Bob has been part of Dignity Boston’s music ministry for a very long time, and he hopes to be able to be with us more now as his available time increases in retirement.

Four very talented individuals that Dignity Boston is happy to share with others as they bring joy and hope through music to so many.

“Did You Know” is a frequent feature of the Dignity Boston Bulletin and is written by Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues.

Our Ongoing Announcements

Community Blessings

From time to time, Dignity Boston has blessed members of the community who are embarking on a particular mission, journey, or life transition. Some examples of this have included blessing a Dignity Boston team before a fundraising event, those making a geographical move, or those attending a Dignity conference or making an important trip on behalf of Dignity. We want the community to be aware that this type of blessing is available. If you have an upcoming significant transition, you may email your request for a possible blessing at an upcoming virtual or in-person liturgy to dignityboston@gmail.com

Monthly Social: Ideas and Hosting Needed

Monthly socials bring our community together online. Have an idea for a topic or a social? Perhaps you’d like to lead an event. If so, please contact Ron, Peggy B., or Robin at dignityboston@gmail.com.

Subscribe to the DignityUSA Monthly Newsletter

We hope you are enjoying the "Our Parent DignityUSA" section of the Dignity Boston Bulletin. For even more DignityUSA information, subscribe to the DignityUSA newsletter, Dateline. Please click here to subscribe to Dateline.

Contact Us!

Our Dignity Boston mailing address is: Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. For questions, contact dignityboston@gmail.com . Please note that DignityUSA's address is: DignityUSA, 51 Pleasant St. #1107, Malden, MA 02148. The phone number is 781-309-7686.

Check Out Our Information Table

We have lots of information vehicles including, but not limited to, Dateline (the DignityUSA newsletter), emails through our listserv, the semi-monthly Bulletin, and our Information Table in our social hall at St. Stephen's where you'll find printed copies of our latest Bulletin as well as other materials. Please consider checking it out when you visit Dignity Boston in person next time around.

Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (9/15/26) by Noon on Sunday, 9/13/26.