DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – October 30, 2026

Our Liturgies

Liturgy of Remembrance

Please join us this Sunday (11/1) for our In-Person Eucharistic Liturgy of Remembrance at St. Stephen's. This service will be live streamed via Zoom starting at 5:00 EST. (Yes, EST. Remember to turn those clocks back one hour before you go to bed on 10/31 as the time changes at 2:00 a.m. on 11/1).

Other Liturgies

Sunday, 11/8
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 EST

Sunday, 11/15
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Healing Service
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 EST

Also, please save the date of Sunday, 12/6 for our 54th Anniversary Liturgy with dinner and a celebratory cake!

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

Three Significant In-Person Liturgies

- Liturgy of Remembrance on Sunday, 11/1.
- Thanksgiving Liturgy w/ potluck (including turkey) on Sunday, 11/22.
- 54th Anniversary Liturgy/Second Sunday of Advent on Sunday, 12/6. (a celebratory dinner and cake follow the liturgy).

Membership in Dignity Boston and DignityUSA

While we value all who participate in our liturgies and other activities, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our dues-paid members.

Consider these benefits of membership:
1. A robust membership amplifies our voice as we work for justice and equality.
2. Members can vote in Dignity elections locally and nationally, and can participate fully at membership meetings.
3. Members are eligible to run for the Executive Board.
4. Members are eligible for membership pins at 1 year, and at 5 year intervals (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, etc.).
5. Members have access to discounts, for example on Dignity Boston Pride T-shirts.
6. Most importantly, becoming a member of DignityUSA and Dignity Boston ensures our continued mission to support LGBTQIA+ Catholics and their loved ones. We have advocated for inclusivity and equality within the Catholic Church for over 50 years. Your support helps us continue to provide supportive communities, valuable resources, and advocacy opportunities which make a tangible difference in the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals in the Catholic Church and in the world (source: dignityusa.org).

If you are not yet a dues-paid member, please consider joining Dignity Boston and DignityUSA by clicking here.

Be sure to designate Dignity Boston as your chapter. Scholarships are available; just speak to any Board member. Ask a supportive friend or family member to join, too.

Our Remembrances

Request for Names for Book of Remembrance

With our Liturgy of Remembrance coming up this Sunday (11/1), we request that you send the names of loved ones who have died over the last year to dbbookofremembrance@gmail.com to be read at this service. The deadline is today (10/30) at noon but no worries as names can also be added directly to the Book of Remembrance **before** the liturgy this Sunday.

Our Elections

Dignity Boston Election Process

You will receive your ballot and voting instructions on Sunday, 11/1 through a new system called Election Runner. If you don't receive it please contact us at dignityboston@gmail.com. You'll notice there are four open spots. Voting ends at Noon on Saturday, 12/5. On Sunday evening 11/8, there will be a Candidates Night with the ability for our members to ask questions. During the day on Saturday, 12/5 after the election committee meets, candidates will be informed as to whether or not they were elected to the board. The 2027 board will be announced at liturgy on Sunday, 12/6.

Thank You!

… to those serving on our Election Committee: Peggy B., Tom, and Becky.

Our Featured Article

Let Us Not Be Our Own Oppressors

Learn about the history of the use of this closing statement at Dignity Boston liturgies in the article "Did You Know?" on p. 11, 12, and 13.

Our Celebrations

Thanksgiving Potluck and Request for Help

Please join us on Sunday, 11/22 immediately following liturgy for Dignity Boston's Thanksgiving potluck celebration at St. Stephen's and please plan to contribute to the meal. Turkeys, stuffing, potatoes, side dishes, desserts, beverages – we need them all. Please sign up with Peggy H. at church, letting her know you will attend and what you will bring. If you would prefer to help in another way, we need folks to help with set up and clean up – please sign up for those, too. If you are not at church on Sunday, 11/1 (our next in-person liturgy) please send a note to info@dignityboston.org with Thanksgiving in the subject line and tell us how you will participate in our celebration! Happy Thanksgiving!

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 11/12
7:00 p.m. EST
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com.
All are Welcome!
Meeting minutes and treasury reports are available per request.

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 11/15
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Our Finances

Quarterly Treasury Report

Many thanks to Chris Lawrence for this quarterly Dignity Boston Treasury Report. Please see below.

Dignity/Boston
Treaurer's Report
Through September 30, 2026

	Actual	%	Budget	%
REVENUE				
Member Donations (1)	15,451.07	69%	23,200.00	82%
Membership Dues	411.15	2%	500.00	2%
Second Collections	3,425.00	15%	3,500.00	12%
Other/Miscellaneous (2)	3,220.49	14%	950.00	3%
TOTAL REVENUE	$ 22,507.71	100%	$ 28,150.00	100%
EXPENSES				
OFFICE/ORGANIZATION				
Church & Storage Unit Rent (3)	9,923.79	55%	11,872.00	42%
Other Office Expenses	1,298.71	7%	1,875.00	7%
GROUPS & COMMITTEES	1,120.93	6%	1,800.00	6%
SECOND COLLECTIONS	3,425.00	19%	3,500.00	12%
PRIDE EVENTS	1,283.81	7%	1,150.00	4%
DONATIONS TO FNSP & DUSA (4)	-	0%	5,800.00	21%
2026 VISION EVENTS	121.24	1%	1,000.00	4%
SOCIAL MINISTRY	805.20	4%	850.00	3%
OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS	56.06	0%	303.00	1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 18,034.74	100%	$ 28,150.00	100%
INCOME	$ 4,472.97		-	

1) Member donations are $1,500 or 11% under budgeted foreacast for the year and $3,200 lower than last year.

2) Includes bank interest; tee-shirt sales, gifts in kind.

3) Storage Unit expends have increased 6% from last year.

4) Donations to Dignity USA and FSNP scheduled for end of the year.

Thank You!

Many thanks to Peggy B., Alice K., and Vickie V. for serving on the Audit Committee.

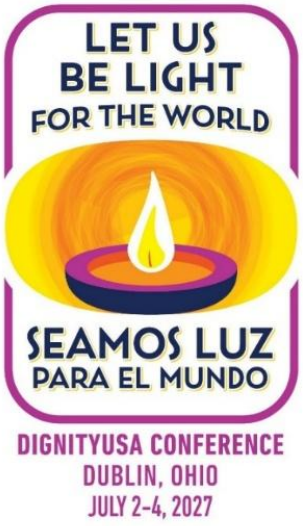
Our Participation

Dignity Boston Requested to Participate in Study

Dignity Boston members are being asked to consider participation in the "Religious and Spiritual Experiences, Social Conditions, and Psychological Well-Being Study" as conducted by Dr. Thomas Killian and Dr. Harvey Peters in the Department of Counseling at Montclair State University and Dr. Emma Fredrick in the Department of Psychology at Marist University. The purpose is to better understand how religious and spiritual experiences, social conditions, identity-related stress, counseling experiences, psychological distress, and well-being are related among LGBTQ+/queer and cisgender heterosexual adults with current or meaningful prior religious or spiritual involvement. You can participate if you are 18+ years old, can read and respond to study materials in English and provide informed consent, and currently identify as religious or spiritual, or previously had meaningful involvement in a religious or spiritual tradition, institution, or community. Participation involves completing a 20 to 30 minute survey. The survey includes questions about religious and spiritual identity and experiences, social conditions, identity-related stress, psychological distress and well-being, and demographic characteristics. Some participants will also receive questions about minority-stress or counseling experiences based on their identities and experiences. Some questions address potentially sensitive experiences. Participation is voluntary, and except for questions needed to determine eligibility, you may decline to answer individual questions or stop participating at any time. All participants who complete and submit the survey may also choose to enter a drawing for one of 20 $15 Amazon electronic gift cards. The drawing is optional. The protocol number is IRB-FY26-27-5372. The link to the survey is here. This link takes you to the electronic informed consent form, where you can review additional information before deciding whether to participate. For more info, contact Dr. Killian at killiant@monclair.edu.

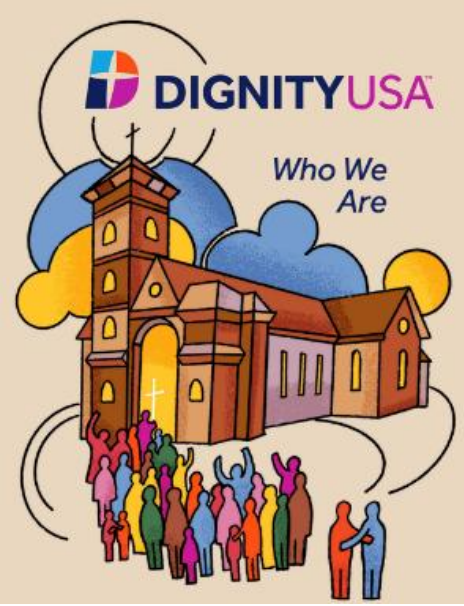
Our Parent DignityUSA

DignityUSA Has New Conference Logo/Preregistration is Ending Soon



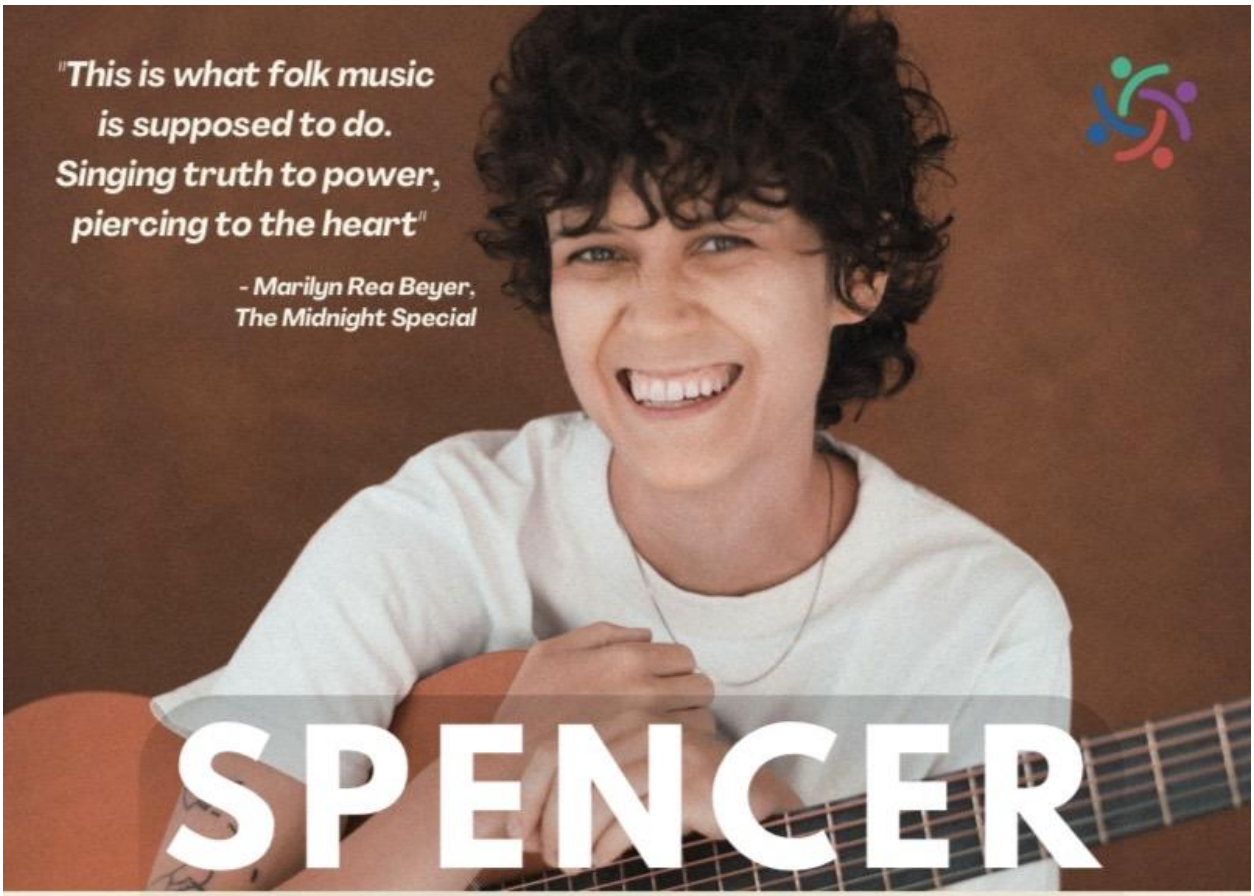
This wonderful conference logo was created by Daniel Valasquez of Dignity New York! Thank you, Daniel! **Preregistration will close Sunday, 11/15.** With a deposit of $100.00, you can secure your spot and get a discount on the registration cost. The conference will be held 7/2 to 7/4 at Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio, just outside of Columbus. The conference is returning to this location, and to a state where DignityUSA has three chapters of dedicated Dignity members. Note that preregistration is valid through 4/30/27. Full refunds will be available through 4/15/27. After that, a $50 service fee will apply.

Who We Are



Check out Artist-in-Residence Francis Kercher's new zine about DignityUSA's mission. We are so grateful to share Francis' talents and our mission with the world. A print version will be available soon at upcoming conferences and events. Francis is an illustrator and designer from Philadelphia. His illustrations and design practice often draw on theology, religious history, and lived experience. Click here for more!

Our Community



SPENCER LAJOYE

Live at UCC Milton

$20 tickets

bit.ly/spencerlajoye

THURS, NOV 5

DOORS 6:30 PM | SHOW 7:00 PM

Proceeds benefit Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth

BAGLY

495 Canton Ave. Milton, MA | United Congregational Church in Milton

27th Annual Boston Trans Day of Remembrance Seeks Volunteers

Each year the Trans Day of Remembrance honors and remembers trans and gender-diverse people whose lives were taken by anti-trans violence. This year's programming includes a Community Care Day on Sunday, 11/15 from 10:00 to 5:00 at the Pryde Community Center and the TDoR Vigil and Community Dinner on Friday, 11/20 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Calderwood Pavillon/BCA Cyclorama (527 Tremont St., Boston). The 27th Annual Boston Transgender Day of Remembrance Committee is seeking dedicated volunteers to support this year's programming. If you are interested and available to support as a volunteer, please sign up here.

LGBTQIA+ Aging Project Hosts Bereavement Support Group

Grief can feel isolating, especially when the people around you don't fully understand the relationship you've lost. The LGBTQIA+ Aging Project at Fenway Health is hosting a free, 10-week virtual bereavement support group for LGBTQIA+ adults of all ages across Massachusetts. It's a space to talk about the loss of someone significant in your life, with others who get it. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom beginning on Tuesday, 11/10. It's facilitated by a licensed clinical social worker specializing in LGBTQIA+ bereavement. Pre-registration is required. To register or ask questions, call 857.313.6590 or you may email LGBTQIAagingproject@fenwayhealth.org. This is funded by the Mass Department of Public Health.

Our Collections

October Collection

Our October collection benefits BAGLY, the Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth, an organization committed to social justice and creating, sustaining, and advocating for programs, policies, and services for the LGBTQ+ youth community in Massachusetts for over 50 years. To donate, click here.

November Collection

Our November collection benefits the Friday Night Supper Program, a longtime program in which Dignity Boston and Arlington Street Church collaborate to help the homeless and those living in poverty. 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.

September Second Collection

Our September Second Collection raised $550.00 for the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden. Thank you for your generosity!

Our History

Did You Know?

… that Dignity Boston has been using the line “and let us not be our own oppressors” in our liturgies for decades? How did that come to be?
In 1995, the late Rich Rasi, a longtime member and presider and Lourdes Rodriguez, also a longtime member, edited and published a book called Out in the Workplace. The book consisted of essays contributed by LGBT individuals, describing their challenges and successes as well as their surprises and disappointments of coming out at work. Thirty years ago, the question of coming out was not as easy as perhaps it seems like today. The internal quandary was real, sometimes lonely, and many times took years to solve. Being out at work was a new frontier in 1995 and there was much to learn from those who chose to share their journey. A part of our history that we should know about and witness for generations to come --especially now as we fear, perhaps, the threat of repression once again.

One of the individuals that contributed to the book was the late Otis Charles (1926-2013). He was the retired president and dean of the Episcopal Divinity School and former bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah. Bishop Charles starts his essay by establishing that "since publicly taking a stand for the truth in my life, I have discovered doors opening and closing in patterns both wondrously affirming and sadly disappointing." Even if he became the highest-ranking church official of any denomination to come out publicly, his story is not unique in the fear, shame, and continuing to perpetuate the silence that most of us know so well. Especially as he became aware of his vocation to the priesthood, he also perceived the silence that his environment required. "I wrestled with myself, pleaded with God…", said Bishop Charles. He got married and had five children. He lived in silence as he thought he was supposed to do in order to serve God, …" a life of self-imposed silence. I accepted isolation as the cost of having a 'place at the table'." His self-imposed silence ended in 1976, five years after he became a bishop, starting with his wife. "My wife did not insist on anything changing in our relationship, so I allowed myself to continue to pass as a fifty-year-old straight man." It wasn't until 1993 that he came out in all circles by drafting a coming out letter addressed to the House of Bishops, due to meet in Panama that September. "For the past several months, I have openly communicated with my family and with growing numbers of my colleagues and friends that I am a gay man", said Bishop Charles.

Otis eventually got to live the life that he thought would never be his to have. He legally married Felipe Sanchez-Paris (1941-2013) in 2008. Rich Rasi spoke with Otis before he completed his essay and heard from him the agony of his own homophobia, and the ways in which he imposed a life of silence, not revealing his own authentic self, as the only way that at that moment he could conceive being in the world. In this conversation he revealed to Rich a brief story that he decided to include in his "coming out" essay for the book. "It would be years before I took to myself the truth proclaimed by an African-American priest, Reverend Canon Ed Rodman (1942-2024) who concludes every service with the words "Let us not be our own oppressors." Rich started using that sentence at the end of the liturgies he presided, perhaps as a way to honor Bishop Charles and maybe also to remind all of us how easy it is for anyone to live in self- imposed silence, feel shame, and internalize the oppression around us. After Rich passed away, other presiders in the Dignity Boston

community, ordained and lay, continued to use this powerful sentence at the end of every liturgy. Perhaps to honor and remember Rich but maybe to help us all remember to live out loud. Let us not be our own oppressors. We ourselves are in charge of our own truth. Amen.

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

Our Ongoing Announcement

Inclement Weather

With the bad weather season approaching, please note that Dignity Boston will make the decision to shift a liturgy from in-person to remote on the Sunday morning of the liturgy. Community members will be notified by email through the listserv. If you're not already on the listserv, please email dignityboston@gmail.com

Blessing Offering

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, and 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 wish to send an email to dignityboston@gmail.com to request such a blessing at an upcoming virtual or in-person liturgy.

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.

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!

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 (11/15/26) by Noon on Friday, 11/13/26.