

Aging with Dignity Community Conversation: About 20 members of our community met last Sunday (2/16) for session two of “Aging with Dignity”. We reviewed the proceedings of session one (4/28/19), namely the stressors, challenges, and worries that accompany people as they grow older, and specifically older LGBTQI persons. There was a short summary of LGBTQI – welcoming social service, health care, and religious resources in Massachusetts. Participants then suggested and considered practical steps our chapter can uniquely take to support our older members and encourage thoughtful planning for everyone as we all grow older. If you’d like a summary of these proposals, contact see Jon S. for paper or electronic copy. It appears that we will move on at some point to session three to discuss the practical implementations of new suggestions and proposals.

Change in Membership Dues: As Dignity moves forward from the Jubilee, we are pursuing an ambitious strategic plan developed with all of you over the last two years. With this new vision, we plan to: (1) Advance and enhance our communities, (2) Broaden our membership and reach, and (3) Develop stronger queer and progressive theological resources. All of this requires more support than ever before. This is why the DignityUSA Board of Directors has decided to raise annual membership dues by \$10 and make other membership changes. It has been twelve years since we last changed our membership dues, and our daily cost of operation has risen from \$900 to \$1200 since then. This reasonable increase in membership dues will help mitigate those costs. You’ll find the details on the DignityUSA website under “Dateline”. These membership changes will become effective 4/1/20. Join or renew your DignityUSA membership now before dues increase! If you have any questions, please contact operations@dignityusa.org or call us at 202-861-0017.

The Bulletin is a weekly publication of Dignity/Boston. Listings are at the discretion of the Dignity/Boston Board. The chapter does not endorse nor will be responsible for any personal views expressed in these announcements. In unusual circumstances, such as when the Governor declares a State of Emergency because of bad weather, Dignity/Boston may cancel its events, including the regular Sunday liturgy. Cancellations will be posted on our website and recorded on our voicemail message at 617-421-1915. We will email the cancellation to the listserv. Dignity/Boston is a progressive and inclusive Catholic community for people of all sexual orientations, genders and gender identities, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons, our family, friends and supporters. Board meetings and Liturgy Committee meetings are open to all members of Dignity/Boston. Both groups meet monthly year-round. All meetings are announced in the bulletin, during announcements at the end of liturgy each Sunday, and at www.dignityboston.org. To place an issue on the agenda for the next board meeting, please see Mary Beth Cummings, email dignityboston@gmail.com, or call 617-421-1915. Please leave a detailed message. For bulletin submissions, send an email to Dave Houle at houlivan@gmail.com. The Bulletin deadline is every Wednesday at 9 p.m.



gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex Catholics & allies

February 23, 2020 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Leviticus: 19:1-2, 17-18

Second Reading

First Corinthians: 3:16-23

Gospel

Matthew: 5:38-48



“You never so touch the ocean of God’s love as when you forgive and love your enemies.”

--Corrie Ten Boom

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Our Songs

Gathering: Bless the Feast (752)

Psalm: The Lord is Kind and Merciful (99—Psalm 103)

Preparation: Do Not Fear to Hope (596)

Communion: We Have Been Told (699)

Sending Forth: Let This be the Time (sheet)

Note: Music selections may vary depending on available singers. Samples of our music can be found on the Dignity/Boston website.

Our Readings

The Book of Leviticus is a book of law and there are verses in it that are often cited to condemn lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and others in our community. More attention should be paid to these two short verses on choosing love over hatred (First Reading). Perhaps Jesus had these in mind when he lays down clear and compelling instruction on our relationships with both stranger and neighbor (Gospel). St. Paul continues his reflection on wisdom, reminding us that God's indwelling in and among us draws us to a wisdom not found elsewhere (Second Reading).

Our Liturgy

The glass chalices contain consecrated grape juice, for those who wish to abstain from alcohol. Gluten-free wafers are available as well.

Dignity/Boston continues to grow in awareness about gender diversity, and we recognize and welcome a spectrum of gender identities and expression. Unfortunately, our current hymnals do not reflect that well. As we strive to do a better job, we encourage you to change language as needed. We also encourage you to identify the pronouns you use on your name tag. During our liturgy each Sunday, we ask you to please silence your cell phone.

Find us on:



Our Announcements

Second Collection: For tonight's (2/23) Second Collection our Dignity community will seek to mitigate the damage that has been done to humans, animals, plants, and our ecosystems in Australia by climate change, following the recent bush fires that ravished over 42,000 square miles of land. To this end, we are collecting funds for Bush Heritage Australia, an Australian non-profit that works to conserve natural landscapes and to foster the health of native species. Their work includes buying land for conservation as well as research related to restoration ecology, wildlife resilience, threatened species, and fire ecology. In addition to their work with government agencies, community groups, corporations, and private land owners, Bush Heritage Australia also partners with Aboriginal groups to achieve conservation goals while creating jobs and livelihood for and with its Traditional Owners. Checks may be made out to Dignity/Boston and Dignity will then write a larger check for the organization. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

Liturgy Committee Meeting: The next meeting of the Dignity/Boston Liturgy Committee will be tonight (2/23) after liturgy here at St. Stephen's. All are welcome to attend.

Ash Wednesday: Join us this Wednesday evening (2/26) at 7:00 p.m. as we join with the St. Stephen's community for our Ash Wednesday Service. This service will mark the start of our Lenten season. Dignity/Boston will have a member of our community read the First Reading. The Responsorial Psalm will also be offered by Dignity/Boston.

New Storage Cabinet: You are welcome to come down to the church basement and admire the Liturgy Committee's new storage cabinet. It replaces the worn and somewhat battered plastic cabinet that goes back to our days at St. John's. The Liturgy Committee is grateful to our Executive Board and to you, members of the community, for making this possible.

Information Table: We invite you each week at Coffee Hour to check out our Dignity/Boston Information Table. It contains many resources helpful to the LGBTQI community.