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### General Information

**Welcome to DignityUSA's 23rd biennial gathering.**

Let us remember where we have gathered to pray, play and plan for the future.

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<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>This Spirit is Calling Us</td>
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<td>Challenge of the Decade:  Our 10th Anniversary</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>We Are All One in Spirit</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Let Us Build the City of God</td>
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<td>1985</td>
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<td>No Turning Back:  Lead Us On, O Lord</td>
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<td>Celebrate the Freedom of the Children of God</td>
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<td>1989</td>
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<td>1997</td>
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<td>Washington, DC</td>
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Join us for DignityUSA’s 50th Anniversary celebration in Chicago, "True to ourselves, True to the Spirit", July 5 -7, 2019. See the inside back cover for more information.

### Other Information

- A message board will be in the Registration Desk area.

**Restrooms**

Throughout the conference, all individuals are welcome to use whichever restroom most affirms their gender. Additionally, a gender neutral restroom is located on the Fourth Floor near the Stuart Room.

### Chapel and Special Liturgies

The Chapel is located in the Stuart Room on the Fourth Floor, and will be available for prayer and quiet reflection beginning Thursday at 3:00pm. Special liturgies will be held in other rooms on Friday and Saturday mornings - refer to the Schedule of Events for the time and location.

### Book of Intentions

The Convention Book of Intentions was started at the Seattle Convention in 1983 by Muggs Regan and Bill Treloar. It has traveled to every convention since and is filled with the prayers of convention attendees. The Book will be located in the Chapel and you are welcome to add your intentions.

### Our Legacy

**Welcome to DignityUSA’s 23rd biennial gathering.**

Let us remember where we have gathered to pray, play and plan for the future.
DignityUSA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of DignityUSA Welcomes You to Conference 2017

When you see one of us, please stop and say “Hello” – we would love to meet you and to learn about your experience with Dignity.

Top row from left: Linda Roberts, Sam Albano, Marianne Duddy-Burke (Executive Director), Patricia Stricker

Bottom row from left: Lewis Speaks-Tanner (President), Allen Rose, Lauren Carpenter, Marie Sweeney, Glenn Crane (Treasurer), Robert Butts (Secretary), Christopher Pett

Not pictured: Alice Knowles (Vice President)
Dear Dignity friends and family,

Welcome to DignityUSA’s 2017 conference! Thank you for taking your place at the table with us - the table of inclusion, grace, and blessing. We’re delighted that you are here.

The Programming and Liturgy Committees have prepared four remarkable days of speakers and liturgies that will both inspire and challenge. From the plenary sessions to the breakout workshops, you will have an opportunity to learn, share ideas, and come together to affirm our role as a justice-seeking community. At the Eucharistic table, we will once again share in our bond as a people of God. And in prayer, song, and dance we will lift our mind, body, and soul to a loving God.

As members of the Boston community, we extend all a warm welcome to our city. We trust that you'll find true hospitality here - and a lot of exciting things to see and do. We hope you'll take some time to explore a little. Within just a few blocks of the Park Plaza Hotel, there are many historical sites, delightful places to eat, and interesting attractions to explore. If you're new to Boston and need to know more about our city - from suggestions of places to eat or where to spend time after the conference - feel free to ask any of the Boston chapter members.

Like our past gatherings, this conference gives us all the opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones. We should make it a point to leave here having made at least a few new friends! Because it’s in growing our Dignity community and connectedness to each other that we will strengthen and change not only our personal lives but also the world at large. Dignity is what we make it.

We have set a big table - one at which we all belong. And it’s also one that has more space so that others can join us as we move forward from this place.

Thank you for being here.

Peace,

Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues and Philip White
Conference Co-Chairs
Dear DignityUSA Conference participants,

Welcome! We are thrilled that you have decided to claim “A Place at the Table” here in Boston at DignityUSA’s 23rd biennial national conference. We hope that your experience here is all you expected and more, and that you leave with renewed commitment to the work of intersectional justice-making.

The National Conference Committee, the members of our Boston Chapter, and countless volunteers from around the nation have been working for a long time to make our time together memorable, challenging, and inspiring. Join us in thanking them for their vision and dedication.

We come together at a time that is challenging for many. Political and faith leaders seem intent on fracturing rather than uniting the people they are supposed to serve. People who may never have worked together now see that we have common goals, and need to figure out how to build common cause. We need to look honestly at what we share, and where we struggle in supporting all who experience oppression. This Conference provides an opportunity to do just that, and to do so in the context of prayerful community.

In this gathering, we have tried to offer inspiring speakers who will bring us messages we may not yet have heard, and who will open our eyes and hearts to how God speaks to us today. We will worship and pray in ways that we hope reflect DignityUSA’s commitment to just and inclusive ministry. We bring together people who are new to our movement, or who bring wisdom from other justice movements, and hope that in doing so we take steps towards building a more diverse and energized community. We invite you to rejoice in the inevitable discomfort of experiencing something new as our table is opened up!

Thank you for being here and for all that you already do for DignityUSA, for your communities, and for the building of the living Church. Working together as one Body we set a place at the table for all.

Many blessings on each one of you, your families, and your communities of faith.

Lewis Speaks-Tanner
President

Alice Knowles
Vice President

July 6, 2017
June 2017

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you as you gather for the biennial national conference of DignityUSA celebrating LGBTQ equality.

As Mayor of Boston, I’ve seen the powerful and positive impact these events have on both individuals and our communities, and I remain committed to creating a supportive network and true equality for all residents in all our neighborhoods.

Boston is fortunate to have rich diversity across our communities. It is a major point of pride for our city. As a City, we will continue to promote and advance our diversity in any way we can. It is part of our collective strength of character, and it helps showcase Boston to the entire world. We stand with all communities and people who are struggling for basic rights, acceptance, visibility, safety, acknowledgement, and equitability. It sends a strong message for the LGBTQ community as we celebrate the unity and resilience of our strong city and our profound spirit.

On behalf of the City of Boston, I hope you have an enjoyable conference and encourage you to embrace all our city has to offer.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Karyn and I welcome you to, A Place at the Table, hosted by DignityUSA. We are honored that Boston is the first city to host the conference for the third time and we welcome you to our vibrant and diverse city.

Since its founding in 1969, DignityUSA has worked to ensure justice, equality, and full inclusion of LGBTQI individuals across the country. We are all proud of this event’s theme of recognizing intersectionalities across justice movements as it speaks to the greater message of bringing individuals of all backgrounds, together.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts celebrates this conference as a symbol of your dedication to the LGBTQI individuals. We send our special thanks to the conference speakers, including Reverend Pamela Lightsey and Walter Robinson, as well as a warm welcome to the members and friends of DignityUSA from across the country and world.

Please accept our well wishes for a successful and memorable conference.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Baker
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Harbor to the Bay

Launched in 2003, Harbor to the Bay is a one day fundraising bicycle ride from Boston to Provincetown, MA, a distance of 122 miles. Harbor to the Bay has raised over $4 million for four local HIV/AIDS organizations; Fenway Community Health Center, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Community Research Initiative, and AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. 100% of all rider-received pledges has gone directly to the beneficiaries. The mission of Harbor to the Bay is to increase awareness to help prevent HIV infection, support care for those affected by HIV/AIDS, improve awareness of care and services and support organizations that advance the quality and accessibility of HIV and AIDS care. Dignity/Boston’s cycling and volunteer team, the Cardinal Sins, has participated in Harbor to the Bay since 2006, raising more than $100,000, and annually involving more than half of the chapter membership in the event as cyclists, crew, volunteers or sponsors.

Friday Night Supper Program

The Friday Night Supper Program was co-founded in 1984 by Arlington Street Church, a Unitarian Universalist congregation, and Dignity Boston, on the initiative of longtime chapter member, Michael Scally. It provides a warm, nutritious meal to anyone in need in a safe and dignified environment every Friday night. The program serves approximately 150 meals every Friday to some of Boston’s most vulnerable residents, many of whom face a constant struggle not only for food, but for understanding and friendship as well. Friday Night Supper’s staff and volunteers pride themselves on providing both nourishment for the body through food and for the soul through dignity and respect. The team seeks and values the opinions of the people Friday Night Supper serves. The program staff and volunteers are committed to: serving as much fresh food as possible with an emphasis on nutritional value, providing basic needs such as clothing and toiletries for guests, and offering a sense of security, abundance and choice to those who have limited or no access to these very basic essentials.

The funds collected during the Eucharistic liturgy will be split between these two organizations to support their ongoing work.

Plenary Description

Dr. Pamela Lightsey: Table Manners for Hungry Radicals

Very often when we speak about having a seat at the table the imagery primarily focuses on the table and the surrounding seats. This imagery is accompanied by discussions about the need to invite people to the table who come from diverse contexts. As the idea goes, who is present at the table is very important to realizing fairness and equality. While all this is true, we will spend time reflecting on the various motivations for the invitation and how we who work for justice in this world ought comport ourselves in such situations.

Plenary Panel: Personal Stories, Public Discouse and Social Change

How can our personal stories contribute to the process of social change? What happens when voices that challenge the predominant narrative are raised up? How do those who raise up those voices maintain their commitment in the face of systemic resistance? Three people who speak for many who often feel voiceless, and who themselves have amazing stories of transformation, will address these and other challenging questions in our plenary panel.
Breakouts

Jean Beebe: Meditation, Mindfulness, and Social Activism
How do we who seek to address social injustice ground ourselves spiritually? Jean Beebe will address how the practice of meditation, used in many religious traditions globally, can nourish the soul and the body. Jean brings expertise in meditation among LGBTQI people to our gathering.

Krzysztof Charamsa: The Pathological Constitution of the Catholic Doctrine on Homosexuality
The former Assistant Secretary of the International Theological Commission of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith will draw on his personal experience to tell us about the factors that contribute to the homophobic and transphobic texts and actions that originate in the Congregation. He calls the Vatican “intensely homoerotic and intensely homophobic.” What will it take to affect this culture, and to reverse the negative impacts of the dogma that it generates?

Michele Dillon: Table of Plenty: Catholicism with Francis
This well-known scholar of Catholic attitudes will present an analysis of the church’s struggle with the regularization of same-sex relationships as evidenced in the Synod on the Family, Amoris Laetitia, and subsequent statements, and how dogma, doctrine, and faith in practice clash. Where do Dignity and similar movements fit into the Church under Francis’ leadership? How can the richness of Catholic tradition feed the multitudes in these challenging times?

Bob Linscott: LGBT Aging Project of Fenway Community Health
What are the particular challenges faced by LGBTQI elders, and what is the role of faith communities in addressing their needs? Bob Linscott will provide an overview of the barriers LGBTQI elders can face in trying to access medical and social supports, resources available, and things caregivers need to know.

The Aging Project’s second session will consist of a screening of the award-winning documentary “Gen Silent.” The film follows six LGBT elders as they try to navigate the long-term care system. Will they need to hide their identity to survive? What is the impact of coming of age in the pre-Stonewall era? View the film and join the discussion.

Casey and Mary Ellen Lopata: 20 Years of Always Our Children: Significance Then and Now?
The co-founders of Fortunate Families, a ministry for Catholic parents of LGBT children, will reflect on the significance of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “Always Our Children” on the document’s 20th anniversary. What impact has this pastoral message to parents had in our Church and in the larger society? How is it being used now, in parishes, by families, and by advocates?

Jamie Manson: The Ethical Framework of “Just Love”
Jamie will discuss a viable sexual ethic for the modern LGBTQI and ally community based on the framework of Margaret Farley, RSM’s “Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics.” How do we enter into relationships in a way that is just and not dictated by heteronormative or cisgender-normative standards? The Friday afternoon session will be particularly geared for young adults. An important conversation for our community.

Louis Mitchell: Inclusivity, Diversity, and Relationship Building
All of us have deep-seated biases. Each of us operates at times from privilege, and at times from a place of oppression. How do we navigate complex and ever-changing networks of relationships—casual and deep—in a way that acknowledges but transcends these realities and allows us to create authentic, respectful, and enriching relationships with a wide variety of people? How can faith facilitate this process? Join Panel Speaker Louis Mitchell for an important conversation.

Rev. Irene Monroe: Intersectional Activism as a Spiritual Practice
This talk provides spiritual guidance to help promote social action. It looks at holistic and inclusive approaches of working on multiple issues- misogyny, xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia or homophobia, to name a few- by doing the following:

- addressing their complexities and intersectionality,
- action occurring in balance with each other,
- developing strategies and tactics that are just as important as understanding the issues.

The above-mentioned objectives will allow for broader solutions to social justice problems that address multiple movements simultaneously and different dimensions of intersectional activism that single-issue organizing failed to recognize.
We bring our entire bodies, not just our minds, to our various tables. This experiential workshop will use theater movement techniques to explore feelings and emotions of belonging as individuals and as community. It will also offer an opportunity to try out new approaches. A different, deeply spiritual way, to explore how we interact with others.

One of the strengths of the Catholic tradition is its equal emphasis on the experiences of Beauty, Reason, and Justice as ways in which we meet God and God meets us. This workshop will invite participants to reflect on their own aesthetic, intellectual, and ethical experiences as encounters with the Holy One.

Our Church is a global network, reaching to all corners of the world. In this session, we will hear about the experiences of Catholic LGBTQI activists from Brazil and Uganda. Lula Ramires is a coordinator of a group of LGBTQI Catholics in the most Catholic nation on earth, and is on the planning team of a Global Catholic Synod planned for 2018 in Brazil. Warry Ssenfuka is the Director of Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG), and has been active in almost every recent effort to advance rights for LGBTQI people in her country. She is also on the Board of Sexual Minorities Uganda, and a plaintiff in the Sexual Minorities Uganda v. Scott Lively lawsuit, seeking to stop the export of religiously motivated anti-LGBTQI propaganda.

The editor of the Boston Globe's Spotlight Team who oversaw the reporting on the clergy sexual abuse and coverup scandals in the Archdiocese of Boston will share his thoughts about how investigative journalism can further social justice issues. A particularly timely discussion!

SpeakOUT Boston believes in the power of personal storytelling to make positive change in the world. For almost 45 years, SpeakOUT Boston has been training members of the LGBTQIA community to tell personal stories in an engaging way and to foster dialogues within schools, colleges, businesses, religious classes, organizations and more. We speak from our hearts. We speak from our own experiences. We speak to dispel stereotypes. We speak to let other members of the LGBTQIA community know they are not alone.

SpeakOUT engage audiences in honest dialogue, and in keeping with their motto “Ask Us Anything,” invite any questions that may challenge harmful stereotypes and misconceptions.

How do we ensure that there is a place at the table for transgender persons, both in our churches and in society? What are the core issues facing transgender Catholics today? How do we create a Church that is inclusive and affirming? What do we think about the recent statements by Pope Francis and other church officials regarding gender theory and what might we glean from Bible passages that may allude to gender variances? What might the Catholic Church learn from other inclusive Christian, Jewish, and non-denominational churches and what steps can we take to influence Catholic doctrine regarding transgender persons?

Join DignityUSA’s Transgender Support Caucus members Linda Roberts, Fredrikka Maxwell, Marcia Garber and Skylar Kelley for a conversation addressing these questions and more.
PAMELA LIGHTSEY is a scholar, social justice activist, and military veteran whose academic and research interests include classical and contemporary just war theory, Womanist theology, Queer theory and theology, and African American religious history and theologies. Dr. Lightsey is currently the only out, African American, queer lesbian ordained as an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. Pamela served as Associate Pastor of a church in south Georgia, as Senior Pastor of an urban church on the south side of Chicago, and has done work for several United Methodist general agencies.

As an activist, Dr. Lightsey has worked within the LGBTQ community to end Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell military policy, and to ensure marriage equality; she continues to critique churches for homophobic polity, liturgy, and homiletics. Pamela was on the ground protesting against excessive police force during the first 21 days of unrest in Ferguson, Missouri and was one of several livestreamers providing ongoing broadcasts across a one year period. She also worked in Orlando in the weeks following the Pulse shooting. Dr. Lightsey has consistently collaborated with activist-colleagues in the movement for the liberation of black lives, those addressing violence against black transwomen, and institutional racism on college campuses.

Currently serving as co-chair of the American Academy of Religion’s Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group, Dr. Lightsey helps lead the work of the steering committee to develop their annual conference sessions dedicated to privileging the theological and ethical scholarship and experiences of black women in America. She was among the first members of the Executive Committee for the Soul Repair Project which studies the role of moral injury in veterans. The project is funded by several sources, including a Lilly Endowment grant, and is directed by feminist scholar Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock. The story of her son Dweylon’s experience as an Iraq war veteran is included in Nakashima Brock and Lettini’s Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War.

Pamela’s several publications include the full manuscript, Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology (Wipf and Stock), “Reconciliation,” in Radical Evangelical (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company), and “Is Necessary Violence a Just Violence?” a review of Meagher’s “Killing From the Inside Out: Moral Injury and Just War” in Syndicate September/October 2015 (Cascade Books) and “If There Should Come a Word” in Black United Methodists Preach!
Plenary Panel

JAMIE MANSON is a speaker, retreat leader, writer, and media commentator with a national profile on issues related to LGBTQ Catholics, young adult Catholics, and the future of the church. She is a columnist for the National Catholic Reporter; her column, “Grace on the Margins,” addresses the plight of the poor, the future of the church, issues of gender identity and sexual orientation, and ways of finding God’s presence in our everyday lives. She is also the books editor of National Catholic Reporter.

JON SCHUM and his husband Ron Lacro are members of Dignity/Boston and have served their chapter and DignityUSA in a variety of liturgical, leadership, and service roles. Jon worked as a diocesan priest for over two decades in parish and educational settings. He also served as a retreat leader and conference speaker. Jon learned community organizing skills, which he put to work as part of a citywide, church-based citizens’ mobilization around housing and improved public services.

LOUIS MITCHELL is a pioneering “intentional man,” elder, and advocate, who serves as the consultant for community engagement for the Transfaith™/Interfaith Working Group and as an Assistant Minister for South Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts.

WALTER V. ROBINSON is Editor at Large at the Boston Globe, where his high impact stories about local, national, and international events have graced the front page since 1972. Robinson led the Boston Globe Spotlight Team that won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its investigation of the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests. He returned to the newspaper in 2014 after seven years as Distinguished Professor of Journalism at Northeastern University.

Transgender Support Caucus Workshop

MARCIA GARBER, a lifelong Catholic, currently living in Manchester, NH, has been a member of Dignity/Boston since Pentecost, 2006.

SKYLAR KELLEY is a newly graduated registered nurse working in Baltimore, MD. They work on a medical ICU and work night shift (often these days wondering what they have gotten them self into).

FREDRIKKA MAXWELL is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she earned her B.A. in Communications and minored in Political Science.

LINDA ROBERTS, a transgender woman, is a member of the Board of Directors of DignityUSA. She is currently retired from a 40-year career, including nearly 29 years as a senior executive with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (formerly NASD), where she served as Treasurer, Controller, Investment Officer and Head of Compensation & Benefits.
Biographies - Breakouts

BOB LINSCOTT is one of the country’s leading advocates on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Aging. He is the Assistant Director at The LGBT Aging Project at The Fenway Institute in Boston. Linscott’s work with LGBT older adults is profiled in the award-winning film Gen Silent, which has been seen by audiences around the world. Linscott’s work focuses on making the existing elder-care network more welcoming and inclusive for the needs of LGBT Older Adults.

CASEY AND MARY ELLEN LOPATA are co-founders of Fortunate Families (FF), a ministry with Catholic parents of LGBT daughters and sons. They served as consultants to the drafters of Always Our Children, the US Bishops Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children. Casey has a Master of Divinity degree, and Mary Ellen has a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies focusing on homosexuality and the family. Casey and Mary Ellen have been married 54 years and are the parents of four (one of whom is gay), grandparents of 11 (one of whom is transgender), and Godparents of two sons of a loving, married gay couple. They were honored with the DignityUSA President’s Award in 2011.

JAMES B. NICKOLOFF is Associate Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he taught Catholic systematic theology from 1989 to 2009. He is currently Adjunct Professor of Theology at Barry University and at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. He has lived and worked for extended periods outside the United States, including three years in Andong, Korea as a Peace Corps Volunteer; two years in Kingston, Jamaica as a Jesuit; and two years in Lima, Peru, where he wrote his doctoral dissertation. In recent years he has taught at Boston College, Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, and the Jesuit Theological College in Melbourne, Australia. He is the editor of Gustavo Gutiérrez: Essential Writings (1996), the editor of In, Out, and About on the Hill: Lesbian and Gay Alums Reflect on Life at Holy Cross (2010), and the co-editor with Orlando Espín of An Introductory Dictionary of Theology and Religious Studies (2007). He has also published analytical essays on ecclesiology, the theological vision of Gutiérrez, and the various theologies of liberation.

JEAN BEEBE has had a lifelong interest and exposure to the practice and study of spirituality since childhood where she was raised in a home where prayer, Bible study and hymn singing in the Protestant tradition were part of family life. As a teenager, her interest in Buddhism and meditation was piqued, which led to a minor in religion in college and her first exposure to traditional Zen meditation. Since, Jean has taken Buddhist refuge and bodhisattva vows while still appreciating the religious roots of her upbringing.

KRZYSZTOF CHARAMSA is a Polish theologian and priest who served as assistant secretary of the International Theological Commission of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith until he publicly came out as a gay man in a consensual relationship on the eve of the second phase of the Synod of the Family in October 2015. He was immediately terminated from his post, and suspended from the priesthood. He now lives in Barcelona, Spain with his partner, where he continues to be an activist for LGBT rights and on feminist issues. He has published extensively on a range of theological issues, and in 2016 published La Prima Pietra/The First Stone, (Rizzoli, Milano 2016), an autobiographical novel, available in several languages, but, unfortunately not yet out in English.

MICHELE DILLON is professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire, Senior Advisor for Research at the Carsey School, and a senior faculty fellow in the Office of the Vice Provost for Engagement and Academic Outreach. Her research interests include autonomy and authority in the Catholic Church; post-secular society; religion, spirituality and cultural change; and purposeful aging. She is currently writing a book on Post-Secular Catholicism (to be published by Oxford University Press).
Biographies - Breakouts

NINA LOUISE MORRISON is a Boston-based playwright, director and teacher with an MFA from Columbia University. She is a Huntington Theatre Company Playwriting Fellow, winner of the 2016 Boston Project at Speakeasy Stage Company, a Company One Affiliate Playwright, a core member of the devising company Project, and a member of Rhombus writers. Her plays have been workshopped, read, and produced by Company One, Fresh Ink Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, 20% Theatre Company, Kitchen Theatre Company, Saltbox Theatre, Open Theatre Project, Our Voices, WOW Café, SLAM Boston, Wax Wings, Bostonia Bohemia, and the Boston One Minute Play Festival. She was a semi-finalist for the 2014 National Playwrights Conference and she is the recipient of a Richard Rodgers Fellowship and a Shubert Foundation grant. Before moving to Boston, Nina was the Senior Program Associate at the Philadelphia Theater Initiative. She also trained as an actor at the National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center, the New Actors Workshop, and received her BA from Oberlin College. She currently teaches playwriting at Grub Street and the University of New Hampshire. www.ninalouisemorrison.com

REV. IRENE MONROE, who is an ordained minister and motivational speaker, does a weekly Monday segment, "All Revved Up!" on WGBH (89.7 FM), on Boston Public Radio and a weekly Friday television segment on New England Channel NEWS (NECN) “The Take,” covering the latest pop culture headlines. She’s a Huffington Post blogger and a syndicated religion columnist. Her columns appear in cities across the country and in the U.K, and Canada. Also she writes a column in the Boston home LGBTQ newspaper Baywindows and Cambridge Chronicle. Monroe stated that her “columns are an interdisciplinary approach drawing on critical race theory, African American, queer and religious studies. As an religion columnist I try to inform the public of the role religion plays in discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. “Because homophobia is both a hatred of the ‘other’ and it's usually acted upon ‘in the name of religion’, by reporting religion in the news I aim to highlight how religious intolerance and fundamentalism not only shatters the goal of American democracy, but also aids in perpetuating other forms of oppression such as racism, sexism, classism and anti-Semitism.”

International Panel
Facilitated by LEO EGASHIRA

JOANITA WARRY SSENFUKA is the Executive Director of Freedom and Roam Uganda. As a Board member of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), she is also one of the plaintiffs in the Sexual Minorities Uganda v. Scott Lively case, which is suing the anti-LGBTI extremist for his role in persecuting LGBT people in Uganda. Warry also opens her home for gatherings of Catholic LGBTI people who are not comfortable practicing their faith in church.

LUIZ (LULA) RAMIRES NETO heads Grupo de Ação Pastoral da Diversidade SP, the LGBT Catholic group in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Pope Francis’ visit to Brazil for World Youth Day in 2015 propelled Lula to national visibility as a spokesperson for the group. Lula was a delegate to Council 50, a Catholic Reform effort to mark the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, and is a key coordinator of the 2018 Global Forum of the People of God, which will be held near his home.
Kevin J. Calegari Leadership Award

KEVIN CALEGARI was President of DignityUSA from 1991 to 1993. He was a tireless and passionate leader who brought new levels of visibility to our movement. In the best-known incident from his presidency, Kevin symbolized Dignity's rejection of the Vatican's 1992 Letter "Some Considerations Concerning the Response to Legislative Proposals on the Non-discrimination of Homosexual Persons" -- in which bishops were instructed to oppose all legislation supportive of equal rights for lesbians and gay men -- by writing REJECTED across the front of the document and nailing it to the door of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome. Kevin died of AIDS in 1994. To honor his memory, and to recognize extraordinary leadership within Dignity as a movement, the Board of Directors of DignityUSA established this award. It is presented biennially to an individual who has demonstrated the same kind of passionate commitment Kevin gave to us.

Past Recipients:
1995 Michael Bekemeier
1997 Bruce Jarstfer
1999 Ben Boerkoel
2001 Mark Matson
2003 Jeff Stone and Terry Mischel
2005 Marianne Duddy-Burke
2007 Peggy Hayes and Tom Streeper
2009 Peggy Burns
2011 Sam Sinnett
2013 Nickie Valdez
2015 Martin J. Grochala

Michael Bushek Service Award

Named for MICHAEL BUSHEK, longtime DignityUSA national newsletter editor, this award is given to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional long-term service to Dignity at the national level. Michael was one of those tireless volunteers that every non-profit organization craves. He spent days combing through chapter newsletters, publications from other gay and Catholic organizations, and the mainstream press for news items of interest to Dignity members. He mercilessly tracked down national officers who owed him stories, and hounded individuals from coast to coast for photographs ("black and white, good quality please"). He published the national newsletter single-handedly for many years.

Upon his death, the national board created this award to honor Michael's memory, and to express gratitude to others who have given a lifetime of service to Dignity.

Past Recipients:
1993 Reverend Tom Orians, S.A.
1995 Elinor Crocker
1997 James Bussen
1999 David Floss
2001 Mary Ann (M.A.) Ladd
2003 Reverend Richard Rasi
2005 Robert Mialovich
2007 Jim Green and Bill Diederich
2009 Bill Welch
2011 John Hager
2013 Michael Flynn
2015 Paula J. Lavallee

Lifetime Achievement Awards

DignityUSA established its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996 to recognize extraordinary advocacy on behalf of and service to the Catholic gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Past Recipients:
1997 Reverend John McNeill
2001 Sister Jeannine Gramick and Reverend Robert Nugent

Risk Taker/Justice Maker Award

DignityUSA established this award in 2013 to honor individuals who have advocated for justice for LGBT Catholics at great personal risk.

Past recipients:
2013 Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and Fr. Roy Bourgeois
Thank You to Our Generous Donors

DignityUSA thanks all those who have contributed to the convention, especially the following:

**Full Conference Sponsors**
- Century Bank
- Eastern Bank
- Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

**Opening Ceremonies**
- Bill Baird and John Kennedy
- Marie Sweeney
  - In Celebration of God’s Rainbow Children
- Robert Thompson

**President’s Lunch**
- Dignity/New York

**Plenary Speaker**
- Dignity/Boston

**Plenary Panel**
- Twin Cities
- Terry Mischel/Brad Cameron
- Estate of Thomas Cunningham

**Workshop Session**
- Mark Clark
- Dignity/Washington
  - Sponsored Krzysztof Charamsa

**Leadership Session**
- Marie Sweeney
  - In Honor of Joe Gentilini and Leo Radel who birthed and rebirthed Dignity/Columbus

**Music**
- Jane Powers
- Marcia Garber
  - In memory of “music men” CJ and Ken Garber

**Chapel**
- Dignity/San Antonio

**Flowers**
- Steve Fortener
- Tom McLoughlin
  - In Memory of Kenny and Kevin
- Anonymous
- Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues/Diane Sidorowicz
  - In memory of Rich Rasi
- Dignity/San Fernando Valley
- Andrew Masterson

**Dance**
- James Hudson

**Commissioning Ceremony**
- Robert Downtain
- Dignity/Houston

**Rural Scholarship Fund**
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

**Other**
- David Vespa
- Andrew Masterson

*Bold indicates a contribution of $500 or greater*
Scholarship Fund

Make a Place at the Table for International Guests

Nicholas Calamusa
Roland Cote
Robert Downtain
Leon Fox
Joy Heising
M. A. Ladd
George Morris
Paul Scarbrough
Richard Young
Ann Clark-Whitlock
Alfred Dabrowski
Daniel Dromm
Jack Frielingsdorf
Richard Heredia
Bernard Lynch
Rocco Pigneri
Robert Schmid

Mark Clark
Dignity/Buffalo
Marianne Duddy-Burke
Carl Garcia
Paul Keaveney
Thomas McMahon
Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues
Ann Marie Szpakowska

General Scholarship Fund

Ginny Remedi
Tim Ascolese
Diane Sidorowicz
Dignity/Columbus
David Vespa
Richard Young
Bob Butts
Paul Keaveney
Dennis Mazur
Beverly Cherney
Marie Sweeney
Mark Matson
Tom McLoughlin
George Mercier
John Nangle
Alvin Gomez
Leo Egashira
Steve Forst
Ed Smith
Carl Spier
(D)Tim Campion

Marty Grochala
Terry Mischel
Clint Winant
Michelle Scheidt
Rolf Rodefeld
Chris Pett
Charles Troyer
Marc Fuentes
Ann Penick
(D)Jim Remer

Gift Card Fundraiser

Gene Corpuz
Francis Duran
Michael Hogan
David Winter
Dignity/Los Angeles
Dignity/San Antonio
Pam Dolence
Stephen and Zella Cook
Dr. H. Todd Kepler
Patty and Tom Stricker
Bob Butts
Doug Grewe/Don Stephan
Dignity/Seattle
Harry Renteria
Timothy Earhart
Chris Pett
Dignity/Palm Springs
Dignity/Dayton (LBC)
Jim Green/Bill Diederich
Dignity/Denver
Jane Gluck
Steve Makovec/Lew Hann
Jim and Jane Baker
Steve Fortener
Joe Gallagher/Mike Krieger
Andrew Masterson

Melia Cox
Ramon Rodriguez
Edward Bruice
Dignity/Boston
Thomas Kelly
Ed Lehman/John Snyder
Dignity/Rochester
Dignity/Pittsburgh
Glenn Crane
Tom Combs
Greg Heiman
Nadine Ballard
Edwards Buice

Bold indicates a contribution of $500 or greater

(D) Deceased
Announcing

DIGNITY JUBILEE 2017-2019

Praying Our Way Forward after 50

In Catholic and Jewish tradition, a Jubilee or Holy Year is observed every 50 years. It is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters.

The Board of DignityUSA invites the members of our various communities to reflect on our history and then help us to discern how the Spirit may be calling DignityUSA to serve in the future.

Three Segments of Discernment:

September 2017 – January 2018: Recalling Our Roots: The initial need we were formed to meet and the dynamics that shaped how we grew.

February 2018 – July 2018: Taking Stock Today: In light of the genesis and growth of our movement, what, if anything, has changed to challenge us?

September 2018 – February 2019: Discerning a Path Forward: In light of our foundational purpose, current dynamics and realities, how might we being called to serve in the future?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, July 4, 2017</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Board of Directors meeting</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, July 5, 2017</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Board of Directors meeting</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Mezzanine Level near Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, July 6, 2017</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm - 11:00pm</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am - 7:30pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Mezzanine Level near Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Leadership training</td>
<td>Whittier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Women of Dignity Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Newbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Young Adults of Dignity Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Whittier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Defenders Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Newbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Transgender Support Caucus Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Whittier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm - 7:30pm</td>
<td>Choir &amp; Opening Ceremonies Practice</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm - 9:00pm</td>
<td>Opening Ceremonies</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm - 11:00pm</td>
<td>Opening Reception</td>
<td>Arlington, Berkeley, Clarendon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, July 7, 2017</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00am - 11:00pm</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00am - 8:00am</td>
<td>Leather Liturgy sponsored by the Defenders (open to all)</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am - 8:45pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Mezzanine Level near Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15am - 8:45am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer and Announcements</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Plenary Keynote Address - Dr. Pamela Lightsey</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop Breakout #A</strong></td>
<td>Table Manners for Hungry Radicals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Mezzanine Level near Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15am - 11:45am</td>
<td>Workshop Breakout #A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krzysztof Charamsa</td>
<td>The Pathological Constitution of Catholic Doctrine on Homosexuality:</td>
<td>Clarendon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Manson</td>
<td>A survey of texts and actions of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Linscott</td>
<td>The Ethical Framework of “Just Love”</td>
<td>Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lula Ramires and Joanita Warry Ssenfuka</td>
<td>20 Years of Always Our Children: Significance Then and Now?</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Manson</td>
<td>The Ethical Framework of &quot;Just Love&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Linscott</td>
<td>The Role of Faith Communities in the LGBT Aging Crisis</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Linscott</td>
<td>A Truly International Table</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lula Ramires and Joanita Warry Ssenfuka</td>
<td>20 Years of Always Our Children: Significance Then and Now?</td>
<td>Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Manson</td>
<td>Telling LGBTQ Stories to Create Social Change</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45am - 1:45pm</td>
<td>lunch on own</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Major Donor Lunch (by invitation)</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm - 3:45pm</td>
<td>Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Caucus Meetings</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defenders</td>
<td>Clarendon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transgender Support Caucus</td>
<td>Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women of Dignity</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Young Adults of Dignity</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>Choir Practice</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm - 9:30pm</td>
<td>Boston Harbor Cruise (advanced tickets required)</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Schedule

**Saturday, July 8, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am - 11:00pm</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00am - 8:00am</td>
<td>Feminist Liturgy sponsored by the Women of Dignity (open to all)</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am - 9:00am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Mezzanine Level near Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15am - 8:45am</td>
<td>Prayer &amp; Housekeeping (2019 Promotion)</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:15am</td>
<td>Plenary Panel Discussion</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Workshop Breakout #B</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>President's Luncheon</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm - 3:15pm</td>
<td>Workshop Breakout #C</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm - 1:30pm</td>
<td>President's Luncheon</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm - 3:15pm</td>
<td>Workshop Breakout #C</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Choir &amp; Liturgy rehearsals</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>Liturgy</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner on own</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm - Midnight</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday, July 9, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am - 9:15am</td>
<td>Workshop - Michele Dillon</td>
<td>Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am - 9:30am</td>
<td>Choir Practice</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Prayer &amp; Closing Ceremony</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45am - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Brunch</td>
<td>Georgian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Wrap-up meeting - BOD and NCC</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greetings

The Defenders
Leather-Levi Clubs

Integrating Leather Sexuality and Spirituality
www.dignityusa.org/defenders

The Defenders believe that the leather experience can produce a richer sexuality and spirituality through fellowship, education and service.

If you are interested in leather-levi and personal spirituality, please join us for our activities at the Boston 2017 Dignity Conference:

Meet and Greet: Thursday, 3:00pm, Newbury Room

Leather Liturgy: Friday, 7:00am, Arlington Room

Caucus Meeting: Friday, 4:00pm, Clarendon Room

Bar Night: Friday (after the Bay Cruise)

Thanks, Boston, for giving me my 21st. - Michael Flynn

Thanks Leaders & Convention Committee. - Brad & Terry

Welcome to Boston! Love, Jane & Peggy

Mahalo DignityUSA for this conference in Boston - Gene Corpuz

Boston ’97 Core Committee - We love you! - Peggy Hayes

Lewis: We thank you for your commitment and dedication to DignityUSA. 15 years on the Board! L&D

Thanks to Conference 2017 Co-Chairs Philip and Lourdes for an outstanding job! - Bill Baird

Congratulations!
Dignity BOSTON
DignityUSA
SINCE 1973

Mission Saints Sergius & Bacchus
A welcoming inclusive & affirming Franciscans of Mercy
Reformed Catholic Ministry to all God's Children
www.missionsergius.org
Divinemercy@gmail.com

Thanks to Conference 2017 Co-Chairs Philip and Lourdes for an outstanding job! - Bill Baird
Greetings

A welcoming and diverse faith community that celebrates the freedom of the people of God and the dignity of all persons.

A proud member of Dignity/USA and the Federation of Christian Ministries, and active supporter of Roman Catholic Womenpriests.

Services every Sunday at 10 AM in the lower level of Christ Episcopal Church, 20 W. First Street, Dayton, Ohio.
Greetings

Welcome to BOSTON

Setting a place at the table for nearly 400 years

1630  Boston is founded, named in part for St. Botolph, patron saint of travelers (like you!)

1978  GLAD is founded; we’re glad they chose Boston as their home.

1773  Long before tea dances, Boston throws a Tea Party!

1775  You say you want a Revolution? It all starts here.

1843  Freedom to marry, part 1: Massachusetts, a leader in the abolitionist movement, ends ban on interracial marriage.

1974  Elaine Noble of Massachusetts elected 1st LGBTQ state representative in U.S. history.

1972  Dignity/ Boston launches a proud tradition of speaking truth to power.

1980s  Gerry Studds & Barney Frank, both of Mass., come out as 1st LGBTQ members of Congress.

1975  DignityUSA boogies into Boston for 2nd biennial convention (at a groovy registration fee of just $35!)

Late 19th century
The term “Boston marriage” is coined in reference to women’s life partnerships.

2017  DignityUSA gathers in Boston for its 23rd national conference: “A Place at the Table”!

2004  Freedom to marry, part 2: Massachusetts becomes 1st U.S. state to allow same-sex marriage.

2011  Massachusetts protects transgender people against discrimination in housing, education & employment.

Be sure to stay for liturgy on Sunday at 5pm
St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 419 Shawmut Avenue in Boston’s picturesque South End neighborhood

www.dignityboston.org  /dignityboston
Greetings

Faith Community  Ecumenical Christians

INTEGRITY/DIGNITY-MADISON
LESBIAN, GAY, TRANSGENDER, BISEXUAL
ALL ARE WELCOME
Since 1977 • Celebrating 40 Years

"A good friend is like a four-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have."
—Irish Proverb

Thank you Alice (& Kathy Ann) for your friendship and your service to DignityUSA.

Peggy & M. A.
Greetings

Dignity/LA
126 South Avenue 64
Los Angeles 90042
(323) 344-8064

CONGRATULATIONS

to DignityUSA on its first 48 years of service to reform the Catholic Church and to minister to the spiritual needs of LGBTQs and other Catholics

Mass every Sunday at 5:30 pm

dignitylosangeles.org

Best Wishes for a Great Convention from your friends at

Dignity Northern Virginia
Celebrating 25 years of Ministry to the Northern Virginia Community
Greetings

The Ecumenical Catholic Communion stands with Dignity USA in creating open and affirming Catholic communities where all have a place at the table!

Our 51 parishes in 20 states and 3 countries are open and affirming, offering all the Sacraments to our LGBTQIA+ family.

Learn more at: http://www.catholiccommunion.org/

DIGNITY San Antonio

By the Grace of God, I am who I am.
And God’s Grace toward me has not been in vain.

Howdy y'all. You'll always have a place at our table.
Greetings

DIGNITY DENVER CONGRATULATES DIGNITY USA ON YOUR 2017 BOSTON NATIONAL CONFERENCE!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your dedication to the Dignity community, especially the women of Dignity.

We are grateful for your wisdom, leadership and compassion.

Love, the YaYas.
Greetings

Dignity/Philadelphia wishes everyone a successful and great convention. When visiting Philadelphia, please come see us.

Please join us for Liturgy each Sunday
At 7:00 p.m.

At the church of
St. Luke and the Epiphany
330 S. 13th St. between Spruce and Pine

Dignity is a caring supportive community of
gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender Catholics, our families and friends

P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105
215-546-2093

E-Mail: Dignity Phila@aol.com

Facebook: Dignity Philadelphia

A Catholic Faith Community for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Questioning individuals, their families and friends.

Box 558 - Royal Oak, MI 48068 - (313) 278-4786
www.dignitydetroit.org
Greetings

Proudly congratulates our brother Lewis Speaks-Tanner for his many years of extraordinary service as DignityUSA President, Vice President, Secretary, and Board Member.
MANY THANKS TO DIGNITYUSA FOR OUR PLACE AT THE TABLE.

DIGNITY/WASHINGTON
DC’s Faith Community for LGBTQ Catholics Since 1972

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS!

DignityWashington.org
Facebook: Dignity Washington
Greetings

Fortunate Families

voices for justice, sharing our stories

We come to join our family and take our place at the table.

Many thanks to the Boston Committee and Dignity/Boston for hosting this feast.

Dignity Chicago
We are Proud to Support the

2017 DignityUSA Boston Conference

Marshall M. Sloane, Chairman
Barry R. Sloane, President and CEO
Linda Sloane Kay, Executive Vice President
William B. Keefe, Assistant Vice President

Allston • Andover • Beverly • Boston • Braintree • Brookline
Burlington • Cambridge • Everett • Lynn • Malden
Medford • Newton • Peabody • Quincy • Salem
Somerville • Wellesley • Winchester • Woburn

CenturyBank.com
866-823-6887

Equal Housing Lender / Member FDIC
Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the good in our communities and celebrating the work of DignityUSA. We proudly support the DignityUSA Boston 2017 Conference.
We are proud to support DignityUSA and their important work in making the world a more comfortable place: for everyone.
Thank You

To put on any event, it takes many hands, lots of shared brain power and much dreaming. DignityUSA’s 23rd Biennial Conference is no exception. Many, many people shared and helped to create this weekend. Committee members and volunteers alike came not just from the great Boston Chapter, but from all over the United States – sometimes making those committee calls challenging for the east and west coast members. We would like to thank all involved for sharing their time and talent.

First let us begin with the National Conference Committee (NCC). This is a very dedicated group of people who work hard and freely share their experience and knowledge with organizing and putting on conventions. Thank you to the members of the NCC: Bill Baird, Lauren Carpenter, Mark Matson, Jane Powers, Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues, and Philip White. Special thanks should be given to Lourdes and Philip for co-chairing the conference and all the extra time and energy that takes.

On the national level, the National Board of Directors provided support, especially in promotion and marketing. Our national staff - Peggy Burns and Logan Bear provided countless hours of office and technical support. And our planning would not be complete without our Executive Director, Marianne Duddy-Burke’s grace, wisdom, insight and knowledge. Thank you each and all.

The program committee spent many, many hours on the phone developing the theme of “A Place at the Table” and finding just the right speakers and presenters to bring the theme alive and real to us all in insightful and moving ways. Then, the Liturgy Committee took the theme from the Program Committee and gave it that spiritual, prayerful touch, creating an atmosphere of prayerful belonging. Next, it takes many hands to do all the other creative and behind the scenes activities, from hotel coordination, marketing, designing video and print materials, organizing registration and volunteers, to creating an atmosphere, and so many other unspoken and unseen activities. Thank you all who helped in many big and little ways.

We especially want to say thank you to Bill Baird. Bill was the chair of the NCC from 2011 until last year. The NCC would not be the same without his immense, vast knowledge base. Bill has a great understanding of budgets, hotel negotiations, website needs and designs, and program book design needs, timelines and all those little details that no one thinks about - just to name a few of the things he contributes. Bill led the NCC in a very successful transition of moving the conventions (now conferences) from the local level to national leadership - always quietly behind the scenes. He kept us organized and moving and thinking ahead. Thank you, Bill!

Sincerely,

Marty Grochala and Paula Lavallee
NCC Co-Chairs
Thank You

Special thanks go out to the many who helped in some way to make this conference a success. We apologize for any names we may have left off. Please know that we appreciate your efforts and help.

Aidan Hennigan
Alice Knowles
Allen Rose
Alvin Gomez
Ann Marie Szpakowska
Bill Baird
Chris Cappiello
Chris Pett
Daniel Larkin
Daniel Velasquez
David Houle
David Russo
Diane Sidorowicz
Erina Donnelly Spiegelman
Jane Powers
Jeff Stone
Jon Schum
Jose Luis Sanchez
Kathy Ann Gianino
Lauren Carpenter
Lewis Speaks-Tanner
Linda Roberts
Logan Bear

Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues
Marianne Duddy-Burke
Marie Sweeney
Mark Matson
Marty Grochala
Mary Beth Foley
Mary Donnelly
Matthew McNeill
Michelle Scheidt
Patrick Lane
Paul Keaveney
Paula Lavallee
Peggy Burns
Peggy Hayes
Philip White
Rene Sontag
Sam Albano
Sarah Henchey Brosnan
Steve Barbas
Tom Yates
Dignity/Boston Executive Board
Thank You

I am grateful to all who have supported me in my service to DignityUSA especially:

BEN, who has never known me without being on the board. Soon there will be more evenings and weekends together instead of me being on the phone or at a meeting. Your days as first spouse are almost over!

MY FAMILY, who have been supportive and proud of my work. My mother, Bea, never got the chance to see me get elected as President but I felt her presence;

MY CLOSE FRIENDS, who have listened to me during calls early mornings and work breaks and have provided me with great insights and counsel;

DIGNITY/NEW YORK COMMUNITY, who have given me a wonderful spiritual home that nourishes and sustains me and for taking a chance on me as a liturgical presider;

MEMBERS OF THE NCC, who have created fabulous conference experiences every two years;

CHAPTERS AND COMMUNITIES that the Board has visited and interacted with since 2007, providing generous and warm hospitality;

MEMBERS OF THE DIGNITYUSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, who made many hard and courageous decisions and have committed to various committee work;

PEGGY BURNS and LOGAN BEAR, who make DignityUSA what it is by what they do on a daily basis;

DANIEL VELASQUEZ, who has served DignityUSA in various ways when we need graphical designs. You have shared your wonderful talents;

CHRIS PETT and LAUREN CARPENTER, for being exceptional directors and for taking the torch of leadership;

MARIANNE DUDDY-BURKE, your voice amplified Dignity’s voice throughout the world. Your dedication and ministry as executive director shows every day. It has been a tremendous honor to work with you!

ALICE KNOWLES, who has been a great partner in crime as Vice President. I am grateful that you said yes!

DIGNITY DONORS and VOLUNTEERS, through your generosity and work, you made it easier for Alice and I to lead;

Thank you to the entire Dignity family for trusting me to lead and guide you for the last two years. It has been a privilege and a blessing to be on the board these last last fifteen years.

— Lewis Speaks-Tanner
True to ourselves, True to the Spirit

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50TH ANNIVERSARY
CHICAGO 2019

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Come be true to the spirit.

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