



From Your President

Happy New Year to All! And what a new year it is! I think that everyone at the Liturgy on Saturday, January 9, 2016 felt we had finally brought in the New Year. We've accomplished so much, and there is so much yet to come. You can check off Christmas Lunch at Katz's, a move to The Havens @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, a fantastic new Liturgy, a new place for our Board Meetings. Add to the Yet-to-Be-Accomplished checklist a DignityHouston History Project, a Pot Luck in February, and so much more.

Remember that I am here to serve you, to bring you a Dignity that you can be proud of and can enjoy. If you ever have any ideas about how I can better serve, please don't hesitate to send me an email at info@dignityhouston.org or leave a message at (832) 390-4453

So let's get on with the Newsletter!

The Havens @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



Our home is now,
officially, The

A New Liturgy

Thanks to
George, Frank,
and Daniel, our



Liturgy Committee, we have a new

Havens @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. And it is a beautiful home. Both Frank and I were on edge pretty much all day, expecting that just about everything would go wrong. But how can it, when we have the wonderful hospitality of St. Stephens and the backing of great Board and Membership. We got storage cabinets over there, figured out where all the light switches are, had a great Board Meeting, and most important the first celebration of our new Liturgy there. (By the way, our Liturgy Committee concelebrated (co-presided) at our new Liturgy).

We really felt at home at The Havens, for the first time in years. Our Liturgy is at the same time, 5:30 pm, just a new Liturgy and place of worship. If you haven't been there before, come join us next Saturday (and all the Saturdays to come).

For those who haven't been to the new location, The Havens (1827 W. Alabama) is at a different location from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1805 W. Alabama, corner of W. Alabama & Woodhead). Please park

Liturgy that was celebrated for the first time at The Havens @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Much more so than our previous Liturgy (which was good for a first try but had long out-lived its usefulness), the new Liturgy reflects modern LGBTQ+ terms and metaphors, as well as the true belief in the wholesomeness and sanctity that can be achieved in an LGBTQ+ life lived in our faith traditions. No, we're not replacing our Roman Missal, nor would the Church ever allow us to have any impact on it. Cardinal diNardo never even responds to our communications, but then there are few in his diocese, gay or straight, that he bothers to acknowledge.

You must remember that the Early Christians sought refuge in the synagogues of the Biblical Jews and were thrown out to avoid recrimination by the Romans, just as we have been thrown out by the more Fundamental among us. Like the Early Christians, we will not be daunted. (Just thankful that the Coliseum and martyrdom by lions and burning are a thing of the past.)

in the parking lot adjacent to the Church and walk down toward Shepherd. The Havens is the second building after the Church parking lot.

Christmas Lunch at Katz's



It's become a Christmas tradition for Dignity! We had

a fantastic time at Kat's. (Remember, Katz's never closes!) We were joined by Daniel, Lionard, Andy, Frank, George, and a new member, Nicolas. Always nice to have new folks with us! If you haven't joined us for Christmases past, make a point of joining us this Christmas. (Or, you know about that Ghost thing You really don't want us to send our ghosts after you.)

Our Last Liturgy at the Montrose Center

We now have something that is especially ours. We're very proud of the beauty and elegance of the Liturgy that George, Frank, and Daniel worked so hard to put together. We also want to thank Dignity/New York, for with their permission we freely stole from their efforts which are beautiful and elegant in their own right. What you have is something that melds the traditions of the two Dignities.

For now, you can read the Sacramentary for the new Liturgy, the document used by the presiders at the Liturgy. The Missalette, used by the Community, is a bit harder to put into a format that you can access here. We will do that, but it will take a few days, and we wanted you to get this as quickly as possible. The words in the Sacramentary and Missalette are the same; the Missalette just has a lot of pictures and no instructions to the Presiders.

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We had a last Liturgy at the Montrose Center and bid it farewell on



our way to new and different things. We've got all the stuff out that we need for our Liturgy, but there's still a lot to be moved. We've got to finish packing for the movers to take things to storage and for the remaining items going to our storage cabinets at The Havens. If you have some time to help on that, we can really use your help. (No heavy lifting!) Let us know at info@dignityhouston.org when you would be free.

Frank and Daniel, Our Photographers

We would be serious remiss if we didn't take a moment to thank Frank and Daniel for their photography at our Liturgy and other Dignity events. We're always looking for other folks to help us with the photography. Hey, we don't want to leave Frank and Daniel out of everything! Feel free to give us a hand.

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Please take a moment to read the [DignityHouston Sacramentary](#). You can also find the Sacramentary on our [Web](#) site.

Spiritual Development Seminar

Don't forget our Spiritual Development Seminars, the third Saturday of every month. Our next seminar will be on Saturday, February 16, 2016 when will view ***Johannine Characters: Literary Creations*** in ***The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic***. You can find the book on [Amazon](#) if you'd like to buy it, but we have copies to lend you for your reading pleasure. You can view it on [YouTube](#). The only

What's Coming Up

We've got a lot of stuff in the works, but it's a little too early to fill you in on all of it. Here's some tidbits:

- A pot luck in February (or maybe even just a full meal).
- A History Project we will record the memories of DignityHouston and the like of George Wetzel and Brent Clarkson. We hope to include folks like Kelly Martino and others, if we can get them to oblige. Know of anyone else we should include? Please drop us a line at info@dignityhouston.org. You can be sure we'll be contacting others as well.
- We're working on increasing membership and have a lot of ideas that you'll be seeing. Do you have any ideas on how to increase membership? Send them to us at info@dignityhouston.org.

way you'll get the lively discussion, though, is by attending the seminar when we explore Bishop Spong's insights into the **Gospel of John**.





Be sure to join us every Saturday at 5:30 pm at The Havens @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1827 West Alabama @ Woodhead, Houston, Texas 77098. Afterwards, you'll want to join us for dinner at a local restaurant.

Larry E. Lutz, President ✕ George Wetzel, Vice-President ✕ Frank Aguilar, Secretary ✕ William Brent Clarkson, Treasurer ✕ Eric Narvaez, At-Large

Dignity/Houston, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and a nonprofit corporation in the State of Texas. It is a chapter of DignityUSA. Donations are tax-deductible.

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