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Pot Luck ✕ St. Brigid ✕ Intentional Eucharistic Communities ✕  
Revel and Riot

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## January 2017 Newsletter.

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### From your President

With January, we embark on a new calendar year. The time has come to reflect on all we've accomplished in the past year, but more important, on what we plan on doing in the coming year. In all of that, it's important to remember that you are DignityHouston. We have no paid employees. Your Trustees are forbidden by law from being compensated for any work that they do for DignityHouston. We are an all-volunteer organization, and you are its workers.

Your Board has laid out an ambitious plan for 2017 with a lot of fun stuff going on. Why don't you make a New Year's Resolution that you plan to keep — to be a part of all the fun stuff at DignityHouston this year!

## Board Happenings

This month's Board of Trustees Meeting was held on January 21, a slight delay because of illness. Items of interest included:

- **Strategic Plan Objective 3.3:** Roy and Kelly continue to plan for the first Pot Luck of 2017 at which we will invite folks who have been a part of DignityHouston in the past. February 26<sup>th</sup> was suggested as a date for the event. Look for much additional information from Roy and Kelly on this event in the next week or two.
- **Strategic Plan Objective 4.2:** Larry and Roy are working on getting the equipment together to begin conducting interviews with members who have valuable memories of the growth of DignityHouston and the LGBTQ+ community in Houston. These audio and video recordings will be hosted on resources such as our Web site and YouTube.
- **Strategic Plan Objective 5.1:** Under Trustee Kenneth Hollas and Director Kathleen Fallon, the Rainbow Rosary Guild continues to prepare for the 2017 Houston LGBT Pride Celebration this June as well as other events where we'll be present. The Guild already has about 800 rosaries ready to go with at least 400 more to be made. The Board approved the purchase of packaging supplies for the rosaries.
- **Strategic Plan Objective 2.5:** The Board began discussion of our participation in the 2017 Houston LGBT Pride Celebration. We will explore the possibility of joint participation with another organization as well as how we will participate and develop a comprehensive resolution for adoption in our February Board Meeting.
- **Who We Are Booklet:** The Board approved publication of the *Who We Are and Where We're Going* booklet which will contain our Mission, Core Values, Vision, Strategic Plan and Annual Budget summary. Each DignityHouston member will receive a copy. That way you'll know what all those Strategic Plan Objective numbers mean!

Your Trustees are vitally interested in what you want to do as part of DignityHouston. If you have suggestions about what your Trustees did in this Board Meeting or what you'd like to see them do in future Board Meetings, please let us know at [Board Happenings](#). If you'd like to be a part of the activities your Trustees undertook at this meeting, drop us a line at the same place.

## Our Calendar

You can always find important dates on the *Our Calendar* page (<http://dignityhouston.org/page/our-calendar>) on our Web site. Here are the events in the coming months:

**January 22** — Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**January 26** — [Feast of David Kato](#), Ugandan LGBTQ rights activist and

martyr

**January 29** — Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**February 1** — [Feast of St. Brigid](#), Celtic Saint who loved her female soulmate

**February 5** — Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**February 11** — [Feast of Euphrosyne/Smaradgus](#)

DignityHouston Board of Trustees Meeting

**February 12** — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Feast of St. Mary/Marinos of Alexandria](#)

**February 13** — [Feast of St. Polyeuct and Nearchus](#), brothers by affection

**February 14** — [Feast of St. Valentine](#), marriage equality role model

**February 19** — Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**February 20** — [Marcella Althaus-Reid](#), queer theology pioneer

**February 21** — [Through the Spoken Word — Reflections on the Sacred](#),

Rothko Chapel

**February 26** — Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 27 — [Malcolm Boyd](#), pioneering gay Episcopal priest

February 28 — [Peter Gomes](#), Gay black Harvard minister preached

“scandalous gospel”

Know of other days we should add to our calendar. Please send them to us at [Our Calendar](#).

## Featured DignityHouston.org Content: Intentional Eucharistic Communities

Each month, we will feature one or two pages from our Web site to help you become familiar with it.

Intentional Eucharistic Communities (IECs), like DignityHouston, began because folks were disenfranchised by the larger Eucharistic communities, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutherans, Anglicans and others or felt unwelcome in those communities. IECs are “intentional” because the members intended to found them (rather than a bishop founding them). They are “Eucharistic” because the Eucharist forms the central point in their worship. Finally, they are “communities” because they strive for a sense of fellowship as the result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals — as expressed in the **Core Values** of DignityHouston.

Learn even more about IECs on the [Intentional Eucharistic Communities](#) page on our Web site.

Do you have any suggestions for our Web site? We’d love to hear them.

Would you like to write blog articles or other material for the Web site? Let us know! Just send us an email at [Web Site Suggestions](#)

## LGBTQ+ Saint of the Month: Saint Brigid

Each month, we'll feature an LGBTQ+ Saint in this section. (If you want to know more about LGBTQ+ saints, be sure to check out Larry's blog article, [Why we need LGBTQ+ saints](#) on our Web site.)

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate the feast of St. Brigid, a sixth-century Irish nun and perhaps the last priestess of a Celtic goddess of the same name. She named a younger nun, Darlughdach, her ***anam cara***, or soul friend. Brigid and her *anam cara* were so close that they shared the same bed. Brigid believed that each person needs a soul friend to with whom to discover God. When Brigid turned 70, she told Darlughdach that she was to die soon. The younger nun begged to die at the same time, but Brigid wanted her to live one more year so that Darlughdach could succeed her as abbess.

Brigid died on February 1, 525. Darlughdach succeeded her in death on February 1, 526. Sts. Brigid and Darlughdach remind us of the beauty and support found in the love between two women. They also inspire us to discover God through the love of another person. Find out more about Sts. Brigid and Darlughdach in the Jesus in Love Blog

<http://jesusinlove.blogspot.com/2013/02/brigid-and-darlughdach-celtic-saint.html>.

If you know of a saint, canonized or otherwise, that you'd like us to feature in the newsletter, please send us an email at [LGBTQ+ Saint of the Month](#)

## Featured Web Site: Revel and Riot

Each month, we feature a Web site that's important to the Catholic LGBTQ+ community in this section.

Looking for the definition of "genderism?" Need to find the T-shirt that says ***it*** just the right way? Want to find out about LGBTQ art history? Role models? Or just need a tote bag that is ***you***? Well, Revel and Riot

<http://www.revelandriot.com/> may be the perfect Web site for you.

Perhaps more so than any other social group, the LGBTQ+ community is served by entrepreneurs who give back to the community as much as they earn from the community. Revel and Riot is one such effort. Yes, they want to

sell you a T-shirt but, in doing so, they want to use that T-shirt to raise funds for the Orlando Pulse victims and families or a similar cause. And so it is for everything else they sell. On top of that, they provide you, for free, a virtually encyclopedic wealth of resources.

It's important that we support our community. Revel and Riot is a good place to start.

If you know of a Web site that you'd like us to feature be sure to send us an email to [Featured Web Sites](#) giving us the URL of the site and why you think it's important.



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

Larry E. Lutz, President ✕ Kenneth Hollas, Vice-President ✕ Roy Brooks-Delphin, Secretary ✕ William Brent Clarkson, Treasurer ✕ Kelly Martino, At Large Trustee

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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*Larry E. Lutz, President ✕ William Brent Clarkson, Treasurer ✕ Roy Brooks-Delphin, Vice-President/Secretary*

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