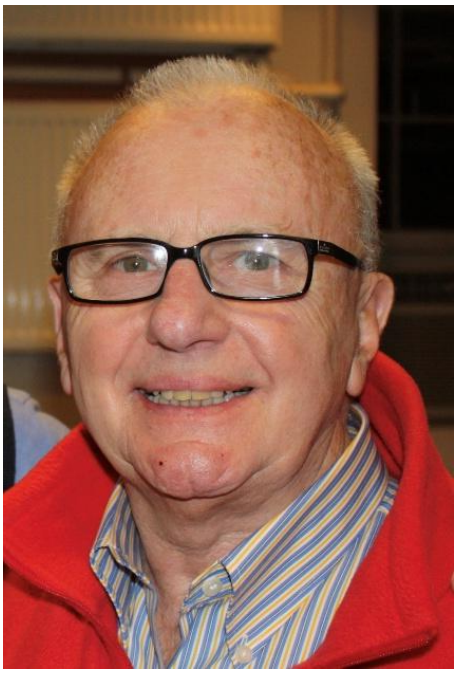
BULLETIN – February 28, 2026

Our Remembrance

Longtime Dignity Member Bill Gilligan passes



Our good friend and long-time Dignity member, Bill Gilligan, passed away on Monday, 2/16 after living with Parkinson's for many years. Formal memorial services are pending but planned for later in the spring. Here is how Bill was described by the Dignity Boston community following a recent remote liturgy: welcoming, life well-lived, man of deep gratitude, never complaining, caring and calming, serving others, humorous, willing to help, good man, missionary, a person who laughs without ever being offensive, humble, bright light, gentle, a man who impacted lives, a family member, a man of such empathy that he entered into suffering with others, reverent, holy in the way he lived his journey, and a man who made others laugh from their toes up. A link to Bill's obituary is here. As mentioned in the obituary, donations can be made in Bill's name to Dignity Boston and DignityUSA. Alternatively for Dignity Boston, you can send to our mailing address (found on p. 20, par. 2). Bill, you will be dearly missed. Until we meet again.

Our Liturgies

Liturgies for Sundays in Lent

Sunday, 3/1
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
Healing Service
Second Sunday in Lent
5:00 p.m. EST

Sunday, 3/8
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Third Sunday in Lent
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 3/15
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
Healing/Blessing of Oils
Fourth Sunday in Lent
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 3/22
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Fifth Sunday in Lent
5:00 p.m. EDT

Palm Sunday

Our Palm Sunday Service will be on Sunday, 3/29 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. It will be an in-person Eucharistic Liturgy at St. Stephen's with live streaming.

Triduum

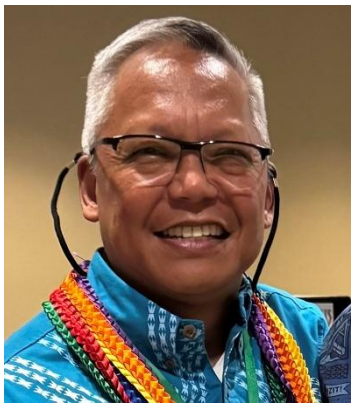
For the first time since the pandemic, Dignity Boston will be doing the Triduum in-person this year with eucharistic liturgies at St. Stephen's and with live streaming. The Triduum begins on Thursday, 4/2 at 8:00 p.m. EDT with our Holy Thursday liturgy. The Triduum continues with our Good Friday service on Friday, 4/3 at 7:00 p.m. EDT. We conclude the Triduum with our Easter Vigil on Saturday, 4/4 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Please note that we will not be holding an Easter Sunday service.

Information About Liturgies During Lent

As part of our Sunday liturgies during Lent, there are a few things we would have you note: there will be suggested text to recite the Confiteor each week, the Kyrie will be sung, and there will be a period of extended silence following the homily/shared reflection. In addition, when we are in person at church, we request no applause after the Song of Sending Forth, and that people leave the church quietly at the end to enable others to remain and pray. During Lent, there will be two opportunities for healing/anointing, at the two in-person liturgies during the season: 3/1 and 3/15. Within the 3/15 liturgy, we will have a blessing of oils ritual (in which the oil/balm to be used in the coming year will be blessed by the community). Please note that whenever anointing is offered, we will have an abbreviated Prayers of the Community as well.

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President



Aloha kākou! (Hello everyone!). Jon and I were lucky enough to leave for Hawai'i a day ahead of the Blizzard of '26. I hope everyone weathered the storm without too much trouble. We've been in Hawai'i since Sunday night (2/22). As many of you know, I grew up on the island of Hawai'i in a small town called Nā'ālehu, the southernmost community in the US. We'll be here for a few weeks to spend time with my 95-year-old mother and three of my siblings. Though I will be 5,000 miles away from Boston, please know that I am with you in spirit and thinking about you! You may be familiar with "aloha" which can be a greeting or salutation. Aloha is also a way of life. To live with aloha means to live with unconditional love, respect, and compassion for others and the environment. I want to share with you that there are other Hawaiian values (nā waiwai) that can help one to live a more purposeful and fulfilling life. These values are a big part of growing up in Hawai'I, and they guide me in my work. I see that these values are vibrantly alive in our Dignity Boston community.

‘Ohana means family, including extended, chosen, or community family, which is central to life.

Kokua (as a noun or verb) means help, assistance, or aid. Giving kokua helps to strengthen relationships and communities.

Kuleana is a personal sense of responsibility, privilege, and accountability for everything around you; the duty to care for one’s family, community, and environment.

Laulima (literally “many hands”) means to work together in cooperation, helping one another. Practicing laulima develops, strengthens, and supports communities.

To malama is to care for, nurture, preserve, protect, or watch over. You can malama yourself, malama others, as well as the land (malama ‘aina), ensuring sustainability for future generations.

Pono means integrity, righteousness, balance, or simply doing the right thing for oneself and the community. To be pono means to consider everyone and everything affected by your decisions.

Ho‘okipa means hospitality; welcoming others with kindness.

Ho‘ohanohano means honoring the dignity and worth of others.

Lokomaika‘i means generosity, sharing, and kindness.
Ha‘aha‘a means humility; remaining grounded and respectful.

The Executive Board is excited about the year ahead. Please email me at dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, or thoughts/ideas about something we can work on together for our community. See you soon on Zoom! --Ron

Our Socials

Thank You!

Thanks to all who attended our Dignity Boston social this past Thursday (2/26). Dignity Boston socials are a great way to keep us all connected. If you would like to lead a social for our community on a topic near and dear to you, please contact our zoom socials planning team (Ron, Peggy B., and Robin) at dignityboston@gmail.com

Coffee Angels Needed

Dignity Boston is in need for community members to sign up to provide beverages and treats following our in-person liturgies. To find out how you can help, please see Kathy Ann or Alice or contact them via dignityboston@gmail.com

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 3/8
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 3/12
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
Meeting minutes are also available per request via the above email.
All are welcome!

Our Social Justice Work

Dignity Boston Organizes No Kings Rally

Are you planning on attending the next No Kings Rally on Saturday, 3/28? Would you like to join your fellow Dignity Boston members at the rally? There will be a group of us gathering at the corner of Park Street and Tremont Street (near the Park Street T Station) at 11:30 a.m. For more information you can contact Chris Lawrence at chrislwrnc@aol.com Click here for more information about the No Kings rally in Boston. If the Boston rally is not convenient for you there are dozens of others you can attend. You can find other locations by clicking here.

Our Parent DignityUSA

Nominations Open for Board of Directors

DignityUSA is now accepting nominations for our Board of Directors. This is a meaningful opportunity to help shape the future of our movement and organization and to support our mission for justice, equality and dignity.

Nominations are open through 4/15 and all submissions can be made online. We encourage you to consider nominating yourself or someone you believe would be a leader for our community. Please click here for more information and here for the nominations form

Our History

Did You Know?

…that two members of our Dignity/Boston community were women religious?

Peggy Burns

Peggy entered the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1967. Her older sister had entered two years prior. “That had nothing to do with my entering,” Peggy says. Brought up in a Catholic family, her faith and her own familiarity with the Sisters, having gone to Catholic schools, were at the center of her wish to be a Sister of Notre Dame. The Sisters of Notre Dame were a teaching order founded by a French peasant girl, Julie Billiart, in 1804. In 1969 the Catholic Church recognized the sainthood of Julie Billiart. After her first two years of formation as a sister, Peggy completed her degree in Education and was a teacher in both elementary and junior high school for 16 years. Peggy’s most cherished part of being a woman religious was the sense of community, “those memories have stayed with me.” She was very fond of praying the Hours in community, especially the complines (night prayers); she still misses that community experience. Peggy much appreciates all that the congregation taught her, especially the fact that they recognized leadership potential in her. “I have no regrets about my

decision to enter the congregation and be a Notre Dame Sister, and when I decided to leave, the community was very supportive of my decision." In fact, her class, 29 women who entered and started formation together, still get together as a group and very much enjoy sharing their memories of then and the stories of their lives now. Peggy says that it was when she started questioning her sexual orientation that she decided to leave the order. She found Dignity Boston in 1994. "Before Dignity, I did not reveal to friends and coworkers that I had been a woman religious, a "sister," a "nun." She just did not feel comfortable. At Dignity, however, she felt she could "come out" in all of what made her herself, including having been a "nun." "There was acceptance and support and that was very important to me." In her decades as a member of Dignity Peggy has contributed immensely to the life of this local community and the national movement of DignityUSA. She has been on both Boards, including Secretary and Vice-President of the National Board. In Boston she is a lay presider, Eucharistic minister, lector, and says yes to whatever the Community needs of her. She has been a longtime volunteer for the Friday Night Supper Program, including being on their Board. Peggy was even a valued employee of DignityUSA! She has been and is, above else a woman dedicated to service.

Becky Duddy-Burke

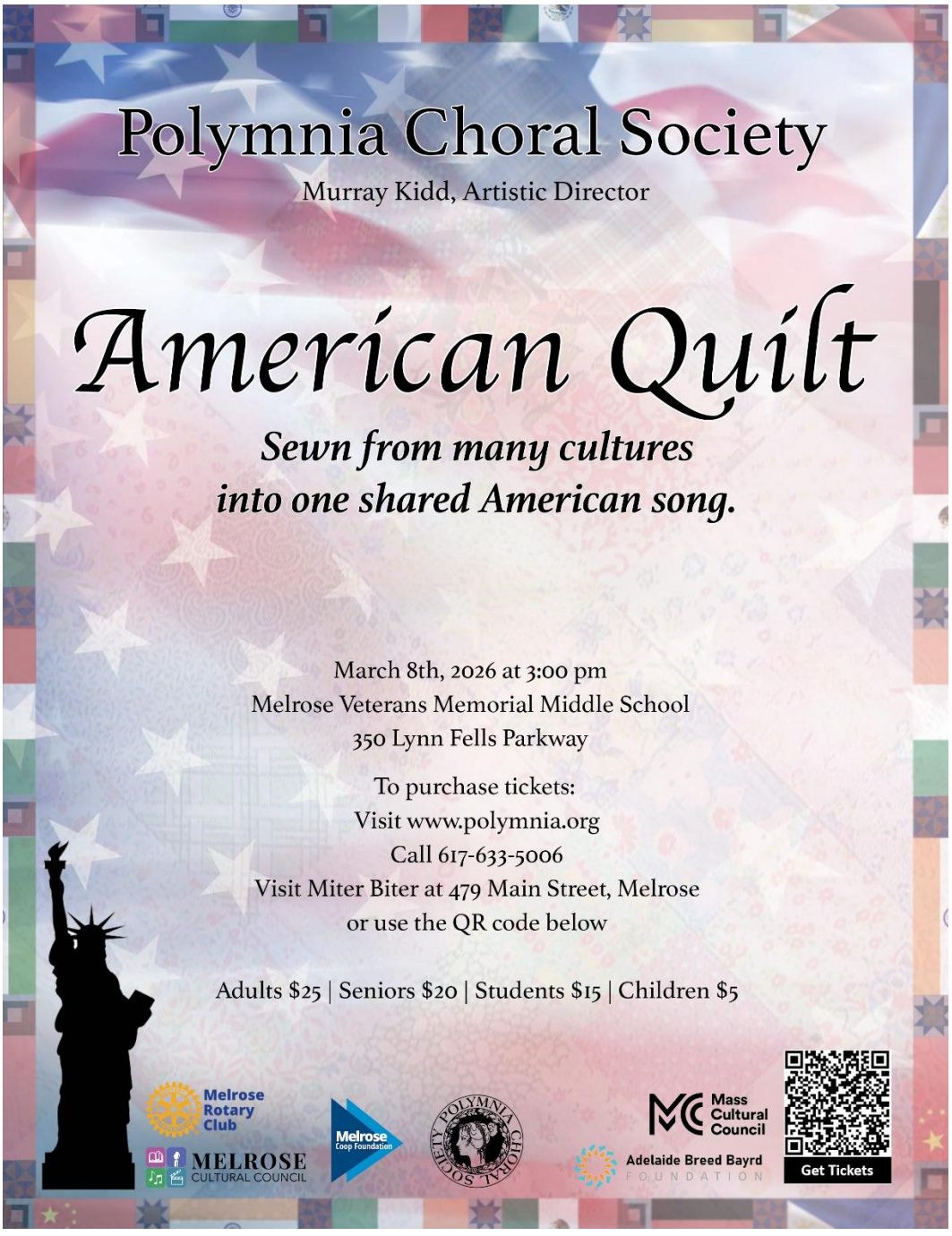
Becky joined the Sisters of Mercy of Erie, PA in 1985. Becky did not grow up in the Catholic faith. Her religion experience, in her own words, was "centered on repentance of sin on earth looking towards life after death." That changed while attending Mercyhurst College in Erie, a Catholic college founded by the Sisters of Mercy. In College, thanks to a theology class, a progressive priest in campus ministry and a Sister of Mercy who taught her, Becky became interested in Catholicism. She thought that everything she had learned prior was not quite right. "God is here in our life now," she now believed, and converted to Catholicism in 1983. Her experience in her nine years as a

Sister of Mercy were positive and she formed good relationships with the Sisters. The congregation's commitment to social justice was transformative for Becky who as a result changed her vocation from teaching to social work. "The balance between contemplation and service that I learned was very important to me." Becky explains that living in community was hard for her, especially as she started questioning her own sexual orientation. She could commit wholeheartedly to the vow of service, but she realized she did not necessarily want to be celibate and wanted to be true to what she began to know about her sexual orientation. She decided not to make her final vows and left the community in 1994. She had been spending the year in Boston as part of her discernment process and attended Boston College School of Social Work, graduating in 1995. Leaving the congregation, says Becky, was painful because of the people that she had come to know and love; but her desire to live openly as a lesbian strongly motivated her decision. She realizes that her first years of being a Catholic were intimately connected to the Sisters of Mercy and not to cultural or familial experiences. She also credits the Sisters for teaching her about social justice and motivating her sense of service. Becky has been in Dignity Boston since leaving the Sisters of Mercy. In Dignity she could be a lesbian, a Catholic, and continue to be committed to social justice. Becky met Marianne Duddy-Burke at Dignity Boston. They married in a Dignity liturgy in 1998. They are parents to Emily and Finn, young adults now! She proudly says that it was Marianne and her shared values of social justice and service that brought them together, something she believed she learned from being a Sister of Mercy. "Two of the Sisters even attended our wedding," she says proudly. Becky has definitely put her strong commitment to service to work at Dignity Boston, as a lay presider, a lector, a Eucharistic minister, a member of the Board and several committees through the years, as well as an advocate of the mission of DignityUSA. We celebrate these two faithful and generous women and their commitment to our community of Dignity/Boston.

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

Our Community

Our community member, Robin, will be singing at this Polymnia Choral Society Concert. Support our Dignity members and Polymnia members, Robin and Mike, by attending if you can.



Our Collections

February Collection

Our February Collection continues to benefit the Dignity Twin Cities chapter of DignityUSA. If you haven't had a chance to donate already, please click here and click on the "donate" button halfway down the page.

March Collection

Our March Collection benefits GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD Law). Through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education, GLAD Law works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation. To donate, please click here.

Our Ongoing Announcements

Subscribe to Dateline

If you are enjoying the "Our Parent DignityUSA" section of the Bulletin, you can get even more DignityUSA information by subscribing to the DignityUSA newsletter, Dateline. Click here to subscribe to Dateline.

A 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.

Second Collections

The collection basket is normally passed around for our Second Collections during the first Sunday that we meet in-person each month.

Dignity Boston Mailing Address

Our Dignity Boston mailing address is: Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. For any questions you may have, please reach us at dignityboston@gmail.com

Inclement Weather

Dignity Boston may move in-person services to online due to inclement weather or an emergency. Please be sure sign up for our listserv at dignityboston@gmail.com so you can be notified.

DignityUSA Contact Information

Please note that DignityUSA's address is: DignityUSA, 51 Pleasant St. #1107, Malden, MA 02148. The phone number is 781-309-7686. Contact us anytime!

Donate In-Person or Via Mail

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. Make your checks payable to "Dignity Boston". If it is for one of our Second Collections, write "Second Collection" in the memo field.

Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (3/15/26) by Noon on Friday, 3/13/26.