



*Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted*  
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Waltham–Lexington

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November 11, 2012

Dear Parishioners:

I would like to thank all parishioners who worked toward the defeat of Question 2, the flawed ballot initiative so-called named “*Dignity with Death*” or “*Physician Assisted Suicide*.” I am grateful to all parishioners, from both our school and church communities who urged their family and friends of the importance of a ‘No’ vote by urging the wider-community to carefully review this dangerous proposal. **I am pleased to note that the polling stations within Our Lady’s Parish had a ‘No’ vote of an even higher percentage than the city at large because of the efforts of many parishioners.**

All longstanding medical associations and disabilities groups were supported by the dedicated efforts and leadership of Cardinal Seán O’Malley who tirelessly worked on this issue.

I am particularly grateful to those parishioners who stood at the polling stations holding signs to express their opposition to this measure, weathering the cold weather, to urge their fellow citizens of the dangers of Assisted Suicide and the slippery slope Massachusetts almost narrowly embarked upon. They were joined by parishioners of other parishes in the City of Waltham in exercising their freedom of speech on this great moral question in voicing their opposition.

I join with you in thanking the Mayor of Waltham, Jeannette McCarthy, and the entire Waltham City Council who took the unusual step of publicly opposing this ballot initiative by unanimously acting as individual citizens to express their opposition to this ballot initiative. Diane LeBlanc was especially helpful in her efforts at the parish and throughout the City of Waltham in networking people together to be aware of the dangers of physician assisted suicide, as proposed by Question 2.

One professional pollster recently noted that the defeat of this measure was one of the greatest turnarounds in Massachusetts ballot history, as a ‘yes’ vote had been assured to pass throughout the fall, until dedicated people banded together to highlight its dangers, and helped to turn the tide against the measure.

The coordination of Our Lady’s Parish office, tied together with the efforts of nearby parishes, such as St. Mary’s, under the leadership of Fr. Michael Nolan were most helpful in having Waltham stand out in its opposition.

May God bless all of us as we work toward caring for the aged, sick, and dying, together with their families. May all our sick and dying receive the most effective and compassionate medical care as well as proper pain treatment as their individual situation requires. May Mary, under the title of Comforter of the Afflicted, continue to intercede on our behalf.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. James M. DiPerri, Pastor

OUR LADY COMFORTER OF THE AFFLICTED PARISH

