

NEWSLETTER



Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception St. Peter Sacred Heart / St. Dominic St. Christopher St. Louis

*In the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Portland, Maine*

In and around Cluster 21

June 2008

June 1, 2008, Ordination Mass at Cathedral: Paul Murray will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. 10 a.m.

June 1, 2008, Plant Sale at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Parish, 11 a.m.: Only one week away for this annual fundraiser. All proceeds are spent on the Church Garden at Sacred Heart.

June 5, 2008, Thursday, Annual Golf Tournament: 12 Noon shotgun scramble, BBQ dinner after golf. Golfers of all abilities are invited to register. Putting contest, raffle prizes and more. \$80 per golfer, \$320 for a foursome. This is an important benefit for Cathedral School here in Cluster 21. Go to www.cathedraportland.com or call (207) 775-1491.

June 7/8, 2008, Special Collection for Seminarians & Ecclesiastical Students: On Saturday, June 7, Transitional Deacon Aaron Damboise of Augusta will be ordained to the priesthood. On that same weekend, we will take up the Diocesan Seminarian Collection. This collection has helped defray the costs of seminarian education for Deacon Damboise, for Father Robert Lupo, ordained just a few weeks ago, for the six men still

preparing for the priesthood, and for eleven men preparing to be Deacons. Please be generous in support of the priests and deacons of the future. Other seminarians are John D. Dickinson, South Berwick, Kyle L. Doustou, Wales, Andrew J. Durand, Farmingdale, Jonathan Spera, Camden, Paul Murray, Westwood MA, Roger Berube, Auburn.

June 8, 2008, Sunday, Protecting God's Children: This training session will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Parish on the corner of Sherman and Mellen Streets in Portland. Cluster 21's facilitator is Christine Thibeault. To register, please call the Parish Office at 772-6182.

June 9 - 13, 2008, SPEAKING OF SAINTS: Susan Conroy, nationally renowned author and speaker from South Portland will appear on "Speaking of Saints" each of four evenings on EWTN. Susan spent a summer volunteering at Mother Teresa's house for the destitute and dying in Calcutta, and while there, developed a lasting friendship with Mother Teresa

herself. Don't miss Speaking of Saints: Mother Teresa of Calcutta, June 9-13 on EWTN!

June 14, 2008, Saturday, Disciples in Mission Reflection Day for Cluster 21: A day of Reflection will be held from 9 am - 12:00 noon at Cathedral Guild Hall for those who participated in Disciples in Mission for Cluster 21. All parishioners are welcome.

June 15-22, 2008, 49th International Eucharistic Congress, Quebec City: Bishop Malone is leading a diocesan pilgrimage from Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22. For details, go to www.portlanddiocese.net. Online registration is available.

June 24, 2008, Share a Flatbread Pizza for Haiti: \$3.50 from every pizza sold between those hours will benefit Sacred Heart / St. Dominic's Haiti Project. Enjoy a good pizza with friends, and do a good deed. 5 to 9 p.m. at Flatbread Company on Commercial Street by the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal.

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For more information, visit the Web site www.cluster21portland.org

The Web site contains the most current news and information about Cluster 21, the history, meeting dates and minutes, links to each parish, and a schedule of activities and events throughout the cluster. The Cluster 21 Newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee of the Cluster 21 Pastoral Council with the Cluster 21 bulletin editors.

*Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time
June 1, 2008*

Cluster Corner

Are we going the right way?

One interesting small group session that happened at the May 3rd Evangelization Day at St. John's in Bangor was a "visioning session."

The instructions were that we would list the surprises we have found so far in the reorganization of the Diocese, and then that we would write down a couple of "what if's" to take away from the day-long event. While these notes may be somewhat vague, perhaps they can spark some new ways of thinking here in and about Cluster 21.

Here is what came from these small groups:

Surprises

1. Statistics
2. That clustering is working
3. That it was such a process to do the needs assessment
4. The HR assessment
5. Asking school staff to be

*Cluster Corner is
continued on reverse...*

Children's Corner:

Today Jesus tells us how to know how to do right things, especially when we're having a hard time deciding. Every time we're not sure which choice to make, praying with the Ten Commandments will help us know the right thing to do.

June 24-27, 2008, Vacation Bible School at St. Peter's Church: Discover Jesus' miraculous power at Vacation Bible School. Held from 9 a.m. to noon daily, the theme will be "Science Lab/Jesus' Miracles." Participants will be preschool to 5th grade; 6th grade and up as crew leaders and junior crew leaders; adults as station leaders. St. Peter's has been hosting a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program for several years and each year our children (and the adults!) have a great time singing, dancing, and learning about God's great gifts! To register as a volunteer or crew leader, or to register children as participants, please click the VBS link on the Faith Formation page of St. Peter's web site (www.stpeterschurchportland.org) or call or e-mail Rachel Johns, Director, at 854-2797 or rajohns01@hotmail.com. For a look at what VBS is, please visit www.groupvbs.com and click on the Power Lab icon.

June 28, 2008, Saturday, Anniversary Celebrations with Bishop Malone: "Bishop Richard J. Malone and Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute invite couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th and 70th wedding anniversaries to celebrate a special Silver and Gold Mass on Saturday, June 28, at 4:30 p.m. at the Cathedral in Portland. RSVP by June 13th to 871-7464, ext. 2670 or 800-CARE-002, ext. 2670. A light reception will follow.

July 2008

July 11, 12 & 13, 2008, Pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre: The Sodality of St. Anne, in Westbrook, is sponsoring this trip with a side trip to Quebec City. For more information contact Marilyn Foster, 854-1199. Each parish office has, or can obtain a copy of the itinerary, costs and registration form.

August 7-9, 2008: In partnership with The North American Forum the Diocese of Portland will present "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings" for all who are interested in learning about implementing a strong RCIA program in their parish. The Forum presents the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, provides experience of the flow, steps, and periods of the Rite, teaches the skills necessary for local implementation, invites reflection, faith sharing, and liturgical celebration, and deepens understanding of the conversion journey. Tuition is \$225 per person. Early Bird Deadline is June 7, 2008. Registration information is available through your local parish office.

September 10, 2008: Public Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new *Mercy at the Fore*. For more information about this new hospital facility, go to <http://www.mercyhospital.org/mercyfore/>.

Friday, October 17, 2008 Cathedral School gala fundraising event! Hundreds of fantastic auction items will be up for bid...Save the date! Call 775-1491 for more information.

Community

Help Wanted - Pastoral Care Assistant: Part-time, 16 hours per week, position available working with the elderly. Hours are 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. including every other Saturday. Please apply to: Sr. Judith McNamara, St. Joseph's Manor, 1133 Washington Ave., Portland. 797-0600. Fax 797-2782.

Cluster Corner

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- involved in parish ministry
6. Catholic school education should be looked at as Catholic education
 7. School and cluster look the same
 8. State of the school report – state of education report
 9. Greater communication, we should each improve it and not look for someone else to do it.
 10. Evaluate programs.
 11. Mission focused
 12. Can't undo being Catholic, we need a common term that talks about that group
 13. Shortage of priests
 14. Contrast between male and female on finance, and how it reversed with catechesis
 15. Many Catholics losing their faith
 16. Models for Clusters we were given were very rigid, and it's actually more flexible than that.
 17. Surprised with the flexibility we have.
 18. Surprised at the training that will be available.
 19. Thrilled at the love we feel in the room.
 20. Workshop examples were good.
 21. Diocesan personnel modeled working well together.
 22. Surprised how well parishes are doing who have clustered.

What if's reported from all tables:

1. What if we build new churches
2. What if we renovate some buildings

3. What if we attract youth
4. Staff workshops
5. What if we started acting like evangelization came first and paying the bills came second
6. What if we act as one instead of many?
7. What if we support Catholic schools in homilies?
8. What if money were not an issue?
9. What if Catholic schools play a role in the evangelization of non-Catholics?
10. What if we get youth involved?
11. Leadership mentoring?
12. Include youth in planning and evaluation, not just in supporting roles, developing their skills?
13. What if we pool youth from all parishes?
14. What if we shared facilities and equipment?
15. Make a conscious decision to speak about that group that is not practicing?
16. What if we hired the two new positions?
17. Stewardship, the way life should be.
18. What if vocations do not keep up in the 10 years?
19. What if this all works?
20. What if more people gained a sense of ownership of their parishes?
21. What if Catholics came back to faith?
22. What if deacons were paid by the Chancery?
23. What if we welcome returning Catholics?
24. What if more people were trained as teachers?
25. More focus on discipleship and evangelization

That's just the first 25. More will be given next week.

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Seek first the Kingdom of God