

In the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Portland, Maine

NEWSLETTER

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 17, 2008

Gather Us: A Maine Mission

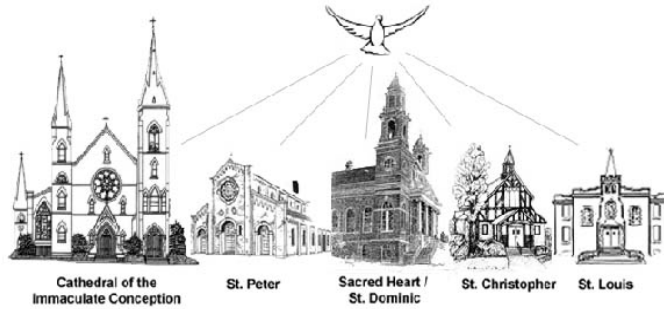
Throughout the Fall of 2008, every Catholic in our Diocese and throughout the United States will be invited to take part in a series of parish missions offered by the Redemptorist Fathers. These retreats are intended to complement the goals and objectives of Disciples in Mission as we move forward with our evangelizing mission.

What is a parish mission?

A Parish Mission is a series of presentations on the Word of God. Each evening is different, yet, each evening will consist of a proclamation of the Word, reflections, singing and praying together.

Who is it for?

Our parish mission will be for those who have abandoned the faith of our youth. It is for on-again, off-again Catholics. It's for those who are wondering what's going on in the Church today. It's for those who have been



*Thus says the LORD:
Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed.*

Isaiah

faithful to our Catholic duties. Our parish mission will be for those of us who need to know more about how to pray, or for we who recognize our need for spiritual growth.

Whether we are saint or sinner, or something in between, the Parish Mission will be an opportunity to experience in a special way the saving presence of God. The mission is for our parish and cluster family.

Continuing the mission

During Lent 2008, many of us found something in Disciples in Mission that perhaps we had been missing, or had not experienced as much as we would have liked. We met our friends and neighbors in faith, and we shared our stories.

As we continue this mission in our day to day lives, watch for more information about the mission in our Cluster. What better time to do it than now?

Our Cluster

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Sacred Heart / St. Dominic

St. Christopher

St. Louis

St. Peter

Children's Corner:

Today's Gospel reminds us that sometimes we think Jesus is only for us, but he's really for everyone.

Seek First the Kingdom of God

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.

September 2008

Saturday, September 6, 2008: The annual Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Yard Sale in support of the parish's Haiti Project is September 6, from 9 to 2, at the corner of Stevens and Ludlow--on the Deering High School lawn. For information about donating items to be sold, please call 773-6562.

Wednesday, 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/>

Sunday, September 14 "Gather Us - A Maine Mission": This Redemptorist Mission retreat is intended to complement the goals and objectives of Disciples in Mission, and presents an opportunity for our parishioners to experience spiritual services, sermons and sacraments that focus on the major themes of our Catholic faith. This will be a time of great grace for the Diocese of Portland, an occasion of healing, conversion, and reconciliation for our parishes and our people. Watch for more information.

Saturday, September 27, 2008: Third annual Silent Auction at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Parish to benefit the mission and ministry of the parish. A fun annual event to be held directly following the 4 p.m. Mass in the Parish Hall.

October 2008

Friday, October 3, 2008 at 6 p.m., Dinner and Reception: Bishop Richard Malone will preside at a Mass to be held at the Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, Lewiston, to which all are welcome, followed by a dinner-reception at the Martindale Country Club. A benefit for Guest House ministries for priests and religious struggling with alcohol addiction, The featured guest speaker will be Maine storyteller, John McDonald. For more information, call Kathy Schiffer, Guest House's Director of Special Events, toll-free at 1-800-626-6910.

Friday, October 17, 2008, 2nd Annual Harvest Ball: Join Bishop Malone at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland at this benefit for Harvest

Magazine. Dance to the music of The Tony Boffa Band and get in on the fun of the silent auction. Ticket price is \$60 per person or \$100 per couple for this black tie optional event. For details, visit www.portlanddiocese.org.

Friday, October 24, 2008 Cathedral School gala fundraising event! Hundreds of fantastic auction items will be up for bid. Support our Cluster school, and do some Christmas shopping for a good cause at the same time. The event will be held at the Italian Heritage Center, doors open at 5:30 p.m. Call 775-1491 for more information.

Promote Catholic Education: Our Cluster elementary school is rich in ethnic diversity, and encourages and broadens children's understanding of social justice and peace, and has Jesus for a role model of behavior. Visit or call Cathedral School. For information, go to www.cathedralportland.com.

Volunteer opportunities: Volunteer opportunities exist in every parish. Lead the way, and contact your parish office to find out how to help.

Retrouvaille: A retreat for married couples who are experiencing difficulties in their marriages. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230, or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

Telling Anew the Story of Marriage! Our diocesan Marriage Preparation Guidelines have been updated (after more than 20 years). Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute will host a very special marriage conference at St. Paul's Center in Augusta on October 3rd to introduce the Guidelines and begin the implementation process within Clusters and Parishes. The day long event will feature speakers, a priests' panel and Mass with Bishop Malone. Anyone who is involved with or interested in Marriage Ministry is invited to come! There is a discount for couples attending. For more information and to register please call 1-800-CARE-002 ext. 2670, or e-mail: familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org.

Struggling with Alcohol/Drug Issues? Catholic Charities of Maine Counseling Services offers confidential substance abuse and mental health counseling for those experiencing problems and/or family members needing assistance. Immediate appointments available. Walk-ins welcome. Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 250 Anderson Street, Portland, or call 775-5671.

Promote Catholic Education

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