

In the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Portland, Maine

NEWSLETTER

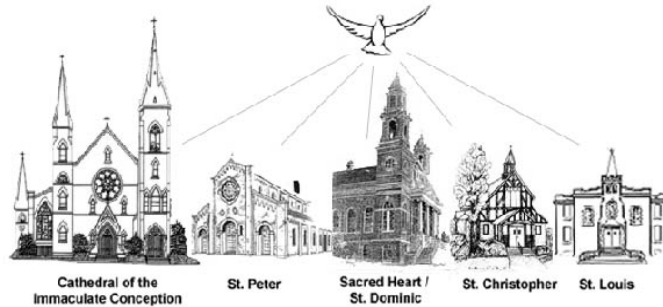
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 7, 2008

Find Your Treasure A Cluster 21 Mission

Throughout the Fall of 2008, every Catholic in each of our 29 clusters - indeed all citizens in the State of Maine - will be invited to take part in a series of missions offered by the Redemptorist Fathers. Two priests will be coming to our area in a couple of weeks. Fr. Woods will be preaching at Cathedral Parish on September 13-14 and both he and Fr. McGowan will preach on the weekend of September 20-21 in the other four parishes of the cluster.

Our Cluster Mission is scheduled from Sunday, September 21 through Thursday, September 25, beginning at 6:30pm with the Rosary and then the Mission will start at 7:00pm. All evening sessions will be held at the Cathedral, with various other sessions to be held daily around the Cluster.

The theme of our Mission is "**Find Your Treasure.**" The Mission will present an opportunity for all people of our five parishes



*where two or three
are gathered*

and throughout our area with spiritual services, sermons, and sacraments that focus on the major themes of our faith.

These days are intended to help all of us to focus on the goals and objectives of *Disciples in Mission* as we move forward with our evangelizing mission as spelled out in the document of our diocese, *Telling Anew the Story of Jesus*.

A Cluster 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. It will be a grace-filled opportunity to experience in a special

way the saving presence of our loving God. Our Bishop says of the Mission, "*this will be a time of great grace for the Diocese of Portland, an experience of the Word made Flesh among us, an occasion of healing, conversion, and reconciliation for our parishes and our people.*"

Everyone's help is needed to reach out and spread the word to relatives, friends and neighbors. Materials will be provided to explain this to others, through a brochure and a flyer to hand out, and on the Cluster Web site. In addition, the Diocese will be providing radio advertising to promote our mission.

Reaching Out

If we were to do a survey of people attending our Masses, what would we find to be the most common way that people find a parish to attend? Rumor has it that the most common way may be by personal invitation. That is now what we are called to do.

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Children's Corner:

You know how it feels when you miss someone? Well, our community misses each person that is away from our places of prayer and worship, so let's welcome them back together!

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.

Please look for more information in next couple of weeks in our parish bulletin, cluster newsletter, visit our cluster website, and look for the brochure that contains the entire schedule for the week of the Mission.

Throughout the week of the mission, all evening events will be held at the Cathedral, and each parish will have events and special liturgies during the week. It is hoped that many will take time gather and unite in prayer for this Mission for Cluster 21.

Most Loving God, grant that our Mission may bring down your richest blessings on each and every member of our Cluster Community and our five parishes!

Community News

Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute offers the following services: Birthline, Project Rachel, Natural Family Planning, FOCCUS, Marriage Enrichment, Divorce Ministry, Marriage Preparation, Parish Inclusion, & Catholic Campaign for Human Development. For information, call 1-800-CARE-002 ext. 2670, or e-mail familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org.

Promote Family Life

VNA Home Health & Hospice is offering training in October for hospice volunteers, preparing them to work as volunteers with individuals and families facing a terminal illness. Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., October 3 - October 24, 50 Foden Road, South Portland. Call Linda at 400-8714 for an application or send an e-mail to hopkinsl@vnahomehealth.org. A pre-training interview is required.

Matthew 25:36 "... I was in prison and you came to me."

Kairos Torch Youth Ministry is beginning to plan for the next program at Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland, to be held in April 2009. In preparation, there will be informational meetings on September 18 from 7 - 9 p.m., and another session on September 20 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (same session repeated).

Hour of Power is held each Wednesday from 7 - 8 p.m. at St. Peter's Church sponsored by VERITAS Young Adult Ministry of Portland.

Theology Underground Meetings for High School Youth each Thursday at Cathedral, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Remember these dates

September 10, 2008
Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Public Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new Mercy at the Fore

September 21-24, 2008
"Find Your Treasure"
A Mission for Cluster 21
www.cluster21portland.org/findyourtreasure

September 27, 2008
Saturday, 5 p.m.
Third annual Silent Auction at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Parish

October 3, 2008
Catholic Charities' Telling Anew the Story of Marriage Conference for marriage ministry at St. Paul Center in Augusta.

October 3, 2008
Friday, 6 p.m.
Mass, Reception and Dinner with Bishop Malone, Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul.

October 5, 2008
Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.
Cheverus High School Open House

October 17, 2008
Friday evening
2nd Annual Harvest Ball

October 24, 2008
5:30 p.m., Friday
Cathedral School gala fundraising event!

For information about any of these events, contact your parish office.

Reaching Out

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The dictionary definition of the word 'invite' suggests several ways to do it. Maybe we can request the presence of another. We could "offer an incentive, or some other kind of inducement to increase the likelihood of acceptance. We may either formally invite, or even urge politely, according to the dictionary.

This week, parishioners are being provided with brochures and flyers that explain the mission. We are called first to be engaged ourselves. This is the start of the second year of Disciples in Mission.

Last year, the first year of Disciples in Mission, the tone was more introspective. This year, it is about reaching out to others. It could be to our Disciples in Mission groups, it could be to family, friends or strangers.

Today's Gospel says it all. It only takes two or three to gather in the name of our Lord. Yet how much more lively and lovely our worship when the rest of the flock is here. 80% of Catholics are not with us. Could it be time to invite them back?



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