

PORTLAND PENINSULA AND ISLAND PARISHES
NEWSLETTER

*In the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Portland, Maine*

A Spirituality of Work, Part 3

by Fr. Mike Seavey

In 1892, Pope Leo XIII issued a major encyclical, "**On the Question of Labor**". Written during the Industrial Revolution, Pope Leo placed the Catholic Church squarely on the side of industrial laborers exploited and treated unjustly by the forces of laissez faire capitalism. This encyclical had a huge and positive impact on the Catholic Church in the United States. Bishops encouraged and supported labor unions and legislation to support working class families.

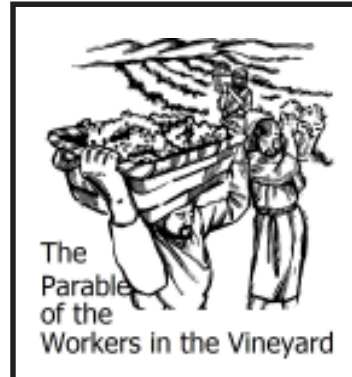
Millions of Catholic workers flocked to labor unions and had a profound impact on the political, social, and cultural life of our country. Combining their faith and daily work, they contributed to a vast network of laws and organizations that assist and support family life. In the 1930's and 1940's, many parish priests conducted labor schools where workers received training in conducting union meetings, running



elections, and focusing the workers' attention to the needs of other workers and all families in need. These schools operating at the local level were a bulwark to our nation's democracy and freedoms. Many tens of thousands of workers came to experience democracy in action in their own communities and workplaces.

Every pope has built on Pope Leo's foundation of social justice teachings. In 1981, Pope John Paul II issued an encyclical entitled "**On Human Labor**". In this teaching document, the Holy Father revisited his predecessor's teaching at the height of the Solidarity union movement in Poland (then under Communist domination). The Polish labor unions were instrumental in the communist regime's collapse in that country.

Pope John Paul referred to unions as "promoters of the struggle for social justice". **The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church** continues this by stating, unions "while pursuing their specific purpose with regard for the common good, are a positive influence for social order and solidarity, and, are therefore an indispensable element of social life" (#305).



In his most recent encyclical letter on social justice **Charity in Truth**, Pope Benedict XVI reiterates this moral concern, "The repeated calls issued within the Church's social doctrine, for the promotion of workers' associations that can defend their rights must therefore be honored today even more than in the past..."

Today labor unions struggle with the impact of globalization, increased management resistance to their workers joining unions, and an incorrect image that they are now passé. The Catholic Church continues to believe that labor organizations have an important place in the dignity of human work and the cause of justice for all working families.

This is the last installment of a 3-week series by Fr. Mike Seavey. To read the first two weeks, go to www.cluster21portland.org. Many thanks to Fr. Mike for providing it.

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 19/20, 2009*

We Believe: Cathedral School 10th Annual Auction

All of the members of the Cathedral School Home and School Association sincerely thank Cluster parishioners for support that really makes a difference in our community. The generosity of a church community goes a long way towards our common mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus!

On Friday, October 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. the school will be celebrating its 145th Year as a Catholic School, as well as the 10th Annual Dinner Auction! Buy your tickets for this grand celebration before October 2nd for \$35.00 and save \$5. This includes a fabulous, Italian Heritage Center Dinner! For those in our cluster with little connection to the school, this is a major fundraising event of the year to support Catholic education in Portland, a task that is totally up to us.

Please consider some fun and exciting donations for the auction, such as a time share condo, or season tickets to theatre or sporting events. Get creative. Your donation is tax-deductable, and truly satisfying. Contact Gretchen Spann at 671-2315 or gspann@maine.rr.com for more information.

Other auction opportunities in our cluster provide a fun and social way to support our church. Please get involved.

Children's Corner:
What do you want to be when you grow up? Jesus said that whether we become the boss or the laborer, if we want to be great we must serve others.

Find more about the Catholic Community of the Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes online at www.cluster21portland.org

The Web site contains the most current news and information about our five parish community, the history, meeting dates and minutes, links to each parish, and a schedule of activities and events throughout the cluster. This Newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee of the Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes Pastoral Council together with the bulletin editors of each parish.

Our Community Calendar Notes:

September 19th, Public Bean Supper - 4 to 6 pm - St Louis Church, baked beans, breads, casseroles, salads, and out of this world desserts. sponsored by the St Louis Women's Society. Adults \$5, Children \$3.

Saturday, September 19th at 7:30 p.m., "A Terrible Beauty," Ireland and the Famine through the words of Peter Berhens and Music of Paul Sullivan at The Maine Irish Heritage Center, 34 Gray Street, Portland, ME. Ticket information: 780-0118; rivermusic.com; Longfellow Books and Ireland's Crystal and Crafts. For more information go to: www.maineirish.com

September 20, 2009, 10:15 a.m. at St. John, Bangor: Bishop Malone invites the public to the annual Blue Mass honoring EMS, fire and law enforcement personnel.

Hour of Power will be held Sept 23 and 30, 2009 from 7 - 8 p.m. at St. Peter's Church featuring praise and worship, Eucharistic adoration, and Reconciliation. Sponsored by Veritas, Portland's Young Adult Ministry.

Stand for Marriage Maine Update: During the next two weekends at liturgies throughout our cluster, there will be a viewing of the DVD of Bishop Malone's homily for Stand for Marriage Maine. September 26-27, the DVD will be shown during the homily time at Cathedral, St. Peter, St. Louis, and St. Christopher's; October 3/4, it will be shown at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic (delaying one weekend at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic for the simple reason that their larger sanctuary, like Cathedral's, will require special equipment, to be borrowed from the Cathedral).

October 10th - Fall Yard, Book, and Bake Sale - 9am - 3 pm - St Louis Church, Yard sale will feature new, antique, and slightly used items; St Louis Women's Society baked goods table; New and used books for wintertime reading. Reasonably priced luncheon also available. Sponsored by the St Louis Women's Society.

October 23, 2009, Cathedral School's annual gala fundraising event! This year's theme is "We Believe." 5:30 p.m., Italian Heritage Center, Outer Congress Street. Hundreds of fantastic auction items will be up for bid. Enjoy a marvelous dinner, Christmas shop and support Cathedral School at the same time. Call 775-1491 for more information.

Friday, October 30, 2009 3rd Annual Harvest Ball: 7 p.m. to midnight at Holiday Inn by the Bay, featuring the Tony Boffa Band. \$60 per person / \$100 per couple, 773-6471, ask for Christine. Proceeds will benefit Harvest Magazine.

Portland Peninsula and Islands Parishes Vocation Awareness Committee: One to two individuals from each of our parishes are invited to be a member of our Vocation Awareness Committee. The first meeting will be at the Chancery Office in Portland from 7 - 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2009. The work of this committee will be promoting vocations, praying for vocations, and inviting individuals to consider vocations. Anyone interested in being considered for this important committee should contact Fr. Kevin at 773-0748, or kevin.martin@portlanddiocese.org.



Two Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday September 19, 2009 // Saturday, September 26, 2009

- 4:00 p.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic - Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J.
- 4:30 p.m. Cathedral - Fr. Lou Phillips
- 5:00 p.m. St. Peter - Fr. Kevin Martin // Fr. Mike Seavey
- 5:15 p.m. St. Louis - Fr. Mike Seavey // Fr. Kevin Martin

Sunday September 20, 2009 // Sunday, September 27, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. St. Peter - Fr. Paul Marquis // Fr. Mike Seavey
- 8:30 a.m. Cathedral - Fr. Lou Phillips
- 9:00 a.m. St. Louis - Fr. Mike Seavey // Fr. Kevin Martin
- 9:30 a.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic - Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J.
- 10:00 a.m. Cathedral - Fr. Lou Phillips
- 10:00 a.m. St. Christopher - Fr. Kevin Martin // Fr. Fred Irving
- 10:30 a.m. St. Peter - Fr. Paul Marquis // Fr. Mike Seavey
- 11:00 a.m. St. Louis - Fr. Mike Seavey // Fr. Kevin Martin
- 12:00 p.m. Cathedral (Latin Mass) - Fr. Robert Parent
- 12:15 p.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic (Sp) - Fr. Phil or Fr. Richard
- 5:00 p.m. Cathedral - Fr. Lou Phillips
- 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic - Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J.

3rd Annual Harvest Ball

Friday, October 30, 2009
7 p.m. to midnight
Holiday Inn by the Bay
hosted by Bishop Malone
featuring the Tony Boffa Band
\$60 per person / \$100 per couple
773-6471, ask for Christine

Proceeds will benefit Harvest Magazine

Daily Masses

Monday, September 21, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. St. Peter
- 12:15 pm. Cathedral

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. St. Peter
- 12:15 pm. Cathedral
- 5:15 p.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. St. Peter
- 12:15 pm. Cathedral
- 5:15 p.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic

Thursday, September 24, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. St. Peter
- 12:15 pm. Cathedral
- 5:15 p.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic
- 6:30 p.m. St. Louis

Friday, September 25, 2009

- 7 a.m. St. Peter
- 12:15 pm. Cathedral
- 5:15 p.m. Sacred Heart / St. Dominic

November 14, 2009, the big shopping day in our cluster: Two great Christmas fairs in the daytime and a Silent Auction in the evening. Save the date, and support our Cluster parishes.

Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute offers many services for families in both good times and in bad. For information, call 1-800-CARE-002 ext. 2670, or e-mail familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org.

ST LOUIS TOYOTA PRIUS FOR SALE: Last chance to buy the 2007 St Louis Toyota Prius, selling for \$17,500 with the remainder of its original factory warranty. Contact Denis Lafreniere at 773-7746.

Reconciliation

Saturdays, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., Cathedral Chapel

Saturdays, 3:00 - 3:30 p.m., Sacred Heart / St. Dominic

Sundays, 12:00 noon (Spanish) Sacred Heart / St. Dominic

Or by appointment:

- Fr. Lou Phillips.....773-7746
- Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J. 772-6182
(English, Français, Español)
- Fr. Alfred Irving..... 380-5620
(English, Français)
- Fr. Paul Marquis..... 233-5914
(English, Français) or 662-5911
- Fr. Kevin Martin..... 773-0748
- Fr. Michael Seavey..... 773-7746
- Fr. Phil Tracy..... 767-6501
(English, Français, Español, Portugues)



PORTLAND PENINSULA AND ISLAND PARISHES

NEWSLETTER

September 19/20, 2009, page two

