



PORTLAND PENINSULA & ISLAND PARISHES

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Very Reverend Gregory P. Dube, Rector & Pastor

November 4, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

In January of 2015, Bishop Deeley announced a new strategic effort that would be undertaken to strengthen the Catholic Church in Maine in order to renew and revitalize our parish communities and help all of us to become more joyful disciples of Jesus Christ and evangelizers of his Gospel. The Bishop invited the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to provide professional support and guidance to every cluster in the Diocese in order to produce a pastoral plan for moving forward into the future.

We were inspired and energized by the Bishop's direction and vision, and in early 2017 the clergy, staff, and parish leadership of our own cluster began our collaborative relationship with CLI. This was the beginning of "our turn" to survey the communities, form a plan-writing team, and set out to undertake the work entrusted to us. You may recall the survey of parishioners and the announcements of these efforts in their early stages. For nearly two years we as a team have been whole-heartedly engaged in this commission. I can honestly say that this has been a blessed time for us as we have grown in greater appreciation for the immense treasure that is our Catholic faith, and in the zeal of our parishioners that will move us to share this gift with others in our mission of evangelization. After hours of long meetings, much listening, a good deal of hard work, an untold amount of grace from God, I am happy to share with all of you the first fruits of these efforts: *the Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes Pastoral Plan 2018-2021*. The plan was presented to Bishop Deeley and he has shared his approval, his gratitude and his blessings for us all as we undertake this work.

Each and every step of the process that has produced this pastoral plan has been governed by a profound spirit of selflessness, respect, and collaboration on the part of all of those involved; it is truly the work of an incredible team of talented and spirit-filled people. And because this team consists not only of skilled and gifted people, but is richly diverse with representatives from all five of our parish communities as well as from our different ethnic communities, I am happy to say that the pastoral plan is truly representative of the needs, concerns, and values of our entire cluster. It has been a joy to work with these extraordinary men and women, and I wish to convey my gratitude for the opportunity to serve with them.

In addition, I have asked every member of the team to stay on and to assist with the implementation of our plan by serving on our newly formed Pastoral Council, to which most have generously agreed. With that having been said, it is my pleasure to share with you the names of this plan-writing team along with their parish affiliation, and to ask that you join me in thanking them for their service: Rev. Kyle Doustou (Parochial Vicar – *ex officio*), Rev. Kevin Upham (Parochial Vicar – *ex officio*), Michele Bernier (Pastoral Life Coordinator – *ex officio*), Denis Lafreniere (Business Coordinator – *ex officio*), Eric Wycoff (Cathedral – *chairperson*), Charles Fitts (Cathedral), Susan Bowden (St. Peter's), Mark Hutchins (St. Peter's), Kimberly MacDonald (Sacred Heart / St. Dominic- *vice chair*), Gary MacDonald (Sacred Heart / St. Dominic), Barbara Hoppin (St. Christopher's- *scribe*), Chris Sprague (St. Louis), Dorothy Olaru (Polish community; plan writing team only), Jose Perez Lopez (Hispanic community), Nono Mukwayanzo (French-speaking African community), and Deacon Michael Augustino (Arabic-speaking African community.) I have also invited Pat Crowley (St. Christopher's), Michal Slawiec (St. Louis) to serve as representatives on the new Pastoral Council and they have kindly agreed.

On behalf of Father Kyle, Father Kevin, and the entire Pastoral Council, I present to you our pastoral plan and would invite you to read it carefully and prayerfully as it articulates who we are, what we value, and where we want to go. Know of my gratitude for your faithfulness, your witness, and your support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Gregory Dube
Rector & Pastor

PORTLAND PENINSULA AND ISLAND PARISHES PASTORAL PLAN 2018- 2021

Cluster Mission Statement

We, the people of the Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes, are a diverse and multicultural community of Roman Catholics seeking to draw ourselves and others into deeper union with God through the celebration of the Sacraments, the proclamation of the Gospel, and service to our neighbor. We welcome all to share in the beauty of our Catholic faith and traditions as we strive to witness the love of Jesus Christ present among us.

Our Core Values

Reverence: We are a people in awe of God's beauty and goodness, who seek to draw ourselves and others into communion.

Relevance: Recognizing the complexity of living in today's world, we strive to make people aware that God is present in their lives and calls us all into relationship with Him and His Church.

Respect: We believe that every human creature is made in the image and likeness of God with an inherent dignity that must be loved, honored and treasured.



Top Three Cluster Priorities

Liturgy and Sacraments:

To increase opportunities for people to actively participate in the Sacramental Life of the Church, to foster greater collaboration among parish liturgical ministries, and to enhance the beauty of our liturgies.

Active and Formed Discipleship:

To provide opportunities for individuals to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that inspires them to be a light to the world and salt for the earth.

Stewardship, Stability and Sustainability:

To responsibly use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to strengthen our parish communities and care for the temporal goods that have been entrusted to us, for our benefit and that of future generations.

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Sacred Heart/St. Dominic Parish

St. Christopher Parish

Our Lady Star of the Sea (mission parish)

St. Louis Parish

St. Peter Parish

PRIORITY-BASED SMART GOALS

Liturgy and Sacraments

To increase the number of well-formed liturgical ministers assisting in the cluster's liturgical and sacramental life we will:

1. Assess the respective needs for liturgical ministers in each parish within six months of the pastoral plan receiving final approval.
2. Formulate plans for appropriate recruitment and training for each lay liturgical ministry, e.g., sacristans, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of holy communion, lectors, ushers, greeters, choir members, etc. within nine months of the pastoral plan receiving final approval.

To foster a more welcoming and accessible experience for parishioners and guests attending Mass at our parishes we will:

1. Assess the experience and identify the needs of parishioners, visitors and newcomers attending Mass at each of the five parishes, and address the identified needs within eighteen months of the pastoral plan receiving final approval.

Active and Formed Discipleship

To offer regular multigenerational faith-formation opportunities we will:

1. Form an Inter-Parish Faith-Formation Team within three months of the pastoral plan receiving final approval.
2. Develop the initial one-year plan to offer multi-generational faith-formation opportunities within six months of the Inter-Parish Faith-Formation Team's initial meeting.

To build awareness of and participation in liturgical opportunities, existing small Christian communities and outreach service opportunities we will:

1. Hold our first annual "Discipleship Sunday" at each parish to provide information about cluster-wide liturgical opportunities, existing small Christian communities and outreach service opportunities by October 31st, 2019.
2. Explore the possibility of hiring a Communications Coordinator by June 1, 2018, or alternatively formulate a communications plan based on existing employees or volunteers by December 31st, 2018.
3. Increase and diversify our communication methods for inviting people to participate in the sacramental life of the Church.

Stewardship, Stability, and Sustainability

We will increase offertory income at each parish by fifteen percent within twenty-four months of the pastoral plan receiving final approval.