

October 10, 2006

Members of the Cluster Planning Committee
St. Charles Rectory
132 McKeen Street
Brunswick, ME 04011-2980

Dear Members of Cluster 15 Planning Committee:

Congratulations on the presentation of a thorough and well conceived plan. You have worked diligently to develop a plan that is workable.

After having carefully read your proposal, and having reviewed it with my staff, the Presbyteral Council and the Episcopal Council, I am pleased to report that there is unanimous support for the direction you have outlined. Thus, I approve moving toward a single parish and encourage you to continue working toward that goal.

As you move forward in implementing the proposed plan, I urge that you bring some new people onto a transition team. Involving some new faces will help to provide a fresh look at the plan and the remaining work still ahead as well as increase the number of people intimately aware of the issues and working with you to bring everyone else on board.

I am asking you to go back to the parish for another recommendation for a name. I can appreciate the desire to name the parish "All Saints", but believe that we can be much more creative. There are many other saints and blessed from recent history that could be considered, or even some of the saints and martyrs of old that are not presently being honored in Maine. Titles or mysteries of Christ and titles of the Blessed Virgin are also acceptable. I eagerly await the reaction of the parishioners.

Lastly, I ask that Father Concannon and Father Rice make this letter known to all the parishioners of the cluster on the weekend of October 14th/15th, since Sue Bernard in the Diocesan Office of Communications will be issuing a press release on Monday,

October 16, 2006, relative to my response to this cluster. Additionally, Sue can be supportive and helpful to you when and if calls come from the local media.

Once again, I congratulate you on the tremendous work you have done. I encourage you as you continue putting the structures in place that will then allow us to focus on our mission, namely, to proclaim the Good News to all. As you move forward, Bill Schulz, Director of the Office of Parish Planning and Evangelization, is available to assist you.

May God bless you with His peace. Please know that you are in my prayers.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone
Bishop of Portland

c: Father Stephen Concannon
Father Richard Rice
Father Edward Sheehan, SM
Father Kenneth Ridgeway, SM
Father John Granato, SM