



Dear Friends,
During the last week of March there were meetings of both the Cluster Finance Council and the Cluster Pastoral Council. We are on the way to a single parish by 2010.

The finance group began a review of the many issues that need to be addressed for the formation of a single parish for our four churches. A sub-committee had organized the issues of concern. During the next month both of the councils will review this statement and decide how the issues are to be addressed. The finance group also reviewed the condition of the current parishes; eight months into the fiscal year expenses have been covered.

The pastoral council received the statement noted above. It decided to undertake a survey of all registered households before the end of the school year. The survey will seek to solicit the concerns and opinions of all parishioners in order to make the transition as smooth as possible. A major concern at this juncture is the necessity to schedule eight Masses in the cluster. Currently, there are three Masses at Holy Martyrs and Sacred Heart, two Masses at St. Gregory's and one Mass at St. Jude's. I am very appreciative of those who are giving time, expertise and energy to this process.

Father Joe Ford
email: jjford67@maine.rr.com

Mass Intentions & Mass Schedule

<u>April 5</u>	4:00 PM	Sally Foster, by the choir
<u>April 6</u>	8:30 AM	John & Josephine Piampiano, by their children
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
<u>April 7</u>	7:30 AM	Larry Hoolahan, by Leo Corcoran
<u>April 9</u>	7:30 AM	Trudy Murray, by the Family
<u>April 10</u>	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

<u>April 12</u>	4:00 PM	Tim McManus, by Mr. & Mrs. Dan Honan & Family
<u>April 13</u>	8:30 AM	The deceased family members of Carlita Brown, by Carlita Brown

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for March 29 & 30, 2008 amounted to **\$5,247.00**. **\$4,059.00** was in 152 envelopes and **\$1,188.00** was loose. Thank you for your gifts.

Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 8th at 6:00 PM

Third Sunday of Easter – Do you recognize Christ in your life? Does your heart burn in his presence? How are you being called as an ordained or consecrated person? If God is calling you, call Msgr. Marc Caron or Fr. Andrew Dubois at (207) 689-2033 or e-mail us at vocations@portlanddiocese.net.

Cluster Mission: Mark your calendars now for the week of **October 5**. Father Paul Borowski will be offering a mission; he is familiar to some at Holy Martyrs for bringing volunteers in the summer for Habitat for Humanity.

Religious Education

Confirmation registration forms are due now. If you need a second copy, please let us know ASAP.

Confirmation for Grade 2 – Saturday, May 10, 1:30 PM at the Cathedral. Rehearsal is on Tuesday, May 6, 6:00 PM at the Cathedral.

Older Candidates for Confirmation – I will be having instruction classes for students in grade 3 and above who are receiving Confirmation this spring. We will continue on April 12, April 19, and April 26 from 2:55 PM to 3:55 PM at Holy Martyrs in the conference room. If you would like to join us, please let me know. If you are an adult who has never been confirmed, I can also help you with that. FMI: Judy Dominick 781-2946 (h) or email: Dominick5@aol.com

Confirmation for Grades 3-12 – Saturday, May 17th at the 4:00 PM Mass.

Graduation Mass – Sunday, June 1st at the 5:30 PM Mass.

“Think Smart/Stay Safe”: Since April is “Child Abuse Prevention Month”, we will be conducting the Diocesan approved “Think Smart/Stay Safe” program, during the regular scheduled sessions on **Sunday, April 27** and **Monday, April 28** for the children registered for Religious Education, here at Holy Martyrs. If you would like to attend with your child, please feel free to do so. Also, if you would prefer that your children not participate, you may sign an opt-out form that you can obtain from the office. Thank you for all your efforts to create and maintain safe environments for our children, and break the cycle of abuse.

SUPPORT THE CENTER OF HOPE!

The middle school Religious Formation class, in conjunction with the Pope's visit, is sponsoring a food and clothing drive to support malnourished children in Haiti. The Center of Hope provides these children with items such as baby formula and underwear/socks. These children greatly need your help. Please pick up a complete list of needs at the rear of the church today and drop your donations in the designated box in the Narthex by/on **Sunday, April 13th, 2008**. Your donations could save lives! Thank you!

“Learn About St. Dom’s” Information Night in Gray – On the evening of **Wednesday April 16, 2008** at 6:30 p.m., St. Dominic Regional High School will be hosting an informational meeting at the St. Gregory Parish Hall in Gray. Highlights of the event include a video presentation on the high school and the opportunity to meet informally with school representatives in a small, relaxed setting. Tuition Aid and Scholarship information will be available. St. Gregory Parish Hall is located at 24 North Raymond Road in Gray. For more information, or to reserve your seat and pre-register for this event, contact: Ryan Gleason, Assistant Principal for Enrollment Management at 207-782-6911 or rgleason@st-dominic.net.

St. Dominic Regional High School is the Diocesan Catholic High School of Maine and is located in Auburn. St. Dom's- a coeducational school-provides students a value-based education, high quality academics, and opportunities for involvement in several outstanding extra-curricular programs. Enrollment is open to all students regardless of religious affiliation. St. Dom's is committed to the principles of integrity, community, and excellence for all members of the school community.

Music Notes: With Easter coming so early this year, there are still 10 weeks of choir rehearsals remaining and 10 opportunities to raise your voice in God's praise. Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm for music and fellowship. Bring your son or daughter, bring a friend, or bring just yourself! For more information call Cecile at 797-4361.

Habitat for Humanity: For this year, it has been decided that Falmouth and Cumberland will join with the Portland Habitat for Humanity Walk to be held on Sunday, May 4th. More details about registration and the route of the Walk will be forthcoming. The “contact” person for Holy Martyrs Church is Moira Lachance @ 781-2346. Please plan to join in this annual event to help raise funds for local Habitat for Humanity Homes.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday April 6	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Readings Begin at #924; Communion Hymn #548 46: Acts 2:14,22-33; Ps 16; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35 DIM Reflection 1:55-5:00 PM, Parish Hall, Open to all Parishioners Connected Catholics 5:00 PM
Monday April 7	Mass at 7:30 AM 273: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119; Jn 6:22-29 see 549; 2 Tm 1:13-14; 2:1-3; Mt 18:1-5 Religious Ed. Classes
Tuesday April 8	Mass at St. Gregory's @ 8:00 AM Parish Council 6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30 AM Connected Catholics Board 6:00 PM 274: Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday April 9	Mass at 7:30 AM 275: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66; Jn 6:35-40 Opus Dei Women 10:00-1:00, Men 6:00 PM
Thursday April 10	Communion Service at 7:30 AM ♫ Adult Choir 6:30 PM 276: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66; Jn 6:44-51
Friday April 11	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 277: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117; Jn 6:52-59; see 550: Rv 12:10-12a; Jn 17:11b-19
Saturday April 12	Mass at 4:00 PM 278: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116; Jn 6:60-69
Donut Sunday April 13	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM 49: Acts 2:14a,36-41; Ps 23; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

Child Abuse Prevention Month – is being marked in parishes across the United States in April. Each week the bulletin will include information on how to prevent abuse, and action the Church has taken to reach out to victims, protect children and remove offenders.

Did You Know...

- The Church has created a safe environment program that includes sexual abuse prevention training for adults and children?
- Background checks are conducted on all Church volunteers who work with children and all Church employees?
- Children very rarely lie about being sexually abused? Take all claims seriously.
- You should be welcome to monitor all programs involving your children for their safety.
- Your child should be taught that “stop” means stop. You can help by complying when a child does not want to be tickled or hugged anymore. This will empower them to use the word and expect and demand that any *bad* touch by others will end if it should happen.

Rummage Sale – Saturday, April 26th, from 8:30-11:00 AM. Volunteers are needed on Thursday and Friday morning to help set up and on Saturday to sell. Please call Mary Honan after April 22 at 781-2705 if you can help.
Please do NOT drop items off until after April 18th in the designated area.

MASSES: *Saturday Mass: 4:00 PM*
 Sunday Masses: 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM
 Daily Mass: Mon. & Wed. at 7:30 AM
 Communion Service: Thurs. at 7:30 AM
 Confession: Sat. 3:15-3:45 & by appointment

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-3:00 PM, Monday – Friday

PARISH OF
THE HOLY MARTYRS
OF NORTH AMERICA

266 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105
www.holymartyrs.org

PARISH DIRECTORY:
 Parish Office: 781-4573
 Religious Education: 781-2847
 Fax: 781-3961
 Email: rectory@holymartyrs.org

ADMINISTRATION:
 Administrator: Rev. J. Joseph Ford
 Catechetical Leaders: Deacon Dennis Popadak
 Judy Dominick

PARISH STAFF:
 Christian Initiation: Judy Dominick
 Youth Ministry: Scott Ross
 Music Ministry: Cecile DeRoche-Cain
 Parish Secretary: Debra J. Coppinger

BULLETIN DEADLINE:
 Notices for the bulletin must be at the rectory office by 12:30 PM on Tuesdays.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We invite you to join in our parish community. Please register by contacting the rectory office.

DEPARTING PARISHIONERS: Please inform the rectory office when you move from the parish.

HOMEBOUND & HOSPITALIZED: Please contact the rectory office to arrange for a visit.

BAPTISMS: By appointment – please contact the rectory.

MARRIAGES: Couples should contact the rectory at least six months in advance.

