



DIOCESE OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 3, 2006

Members of the Cluster Planning Committee
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
919 Roosevelt Trail
Windham, ME 04062-5641

Dear Members of Cluster 23 Planning Committee:

Thank you for the presentation of the fruits of your cluster planning work. There are certainly a number of unique issues that need to be dealt with in this cluster, and thus much work remains.

After having carefully read your proposal, and having reviewed it with my staff, the Presbyteral Council and the Episcopal Council, the model you have selected, namely Model 2, is approved. At the same time, some questions remain.

There are a number of construction projects projected for this cluster. One of the questions which needs to be resolved is the location of the central administrative office for your entire cluster. This is not clear in your plan. Obviously, this decision impacts any construction plans for Windham, Gorham, and Westbrook.

It seems to me that before undertaking any construction at the Gorham site, a number of questions need to be answered. Looking ahead and considering that you are planning for the future, is the current site the best location for the location of the church? Where is the population growth happening in your cluster? What alternative locations would there be? What size facility will be needed by the year 2010 and beyond? These questions must be answered by June of 2007 so that the cluster plan can be fully implemented by 2010.

At the same time, I want to encourage and support the ongoing study being done by the Windham parish. Whether or not Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church remains at the current location, the primary focus of the cluster should be how the needs of the future, as we can best project them, can best be served.

As the cluster continues to plan and move forward, I will be taking a closer look at the staffing levels and the pastoral programs. This was not something you were

directed to do this year, but I raise it since it is not too soon to begin these discussions, along with the other issues you are studying.

Lastly, I ask that Father Carpentier, Father Brissette, Father Conley, and Father Daniels make this letter known to all the parishioners of the cluster on the weekend of October 7th/8th, since Sue Bernard in the Diocesan Office of Communications will be issuing a press release on Monday, October 9, 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 work you have done. I encourage you as you develop more fully your recommendation. The structures we are putting in place now will 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 cursive script that reads "+ Richard J. Malone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone
Bishop of Portland

cc: Father Normand Carpentier
Father Reginald Brissette
Father Lawrence Conley
Father Joseph Daniels