



DIocese OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 12, 2006

Dear Members of Cluster 21 Planning Committee:

I realize that you have been waiting for some time for a response from me regarding a recommended division of Cluster 21 into two separate clusters.

After extensive consultation with my staff, the Presbyteral Council and the Episcopal Council, I write to inform you that I approve the formation of two clusters in the greater Portland area. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to the Portland parishes announcing this decision. There is a specific letter intended for St. Joseph Parish in Portland because of their special circumstances.

Thank you very much for your hard work so far. I know that there is much yet to be done. I look forward to receiving your completed reports now that some preliminary decisions have been made.

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

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone
Bishop of Portland

RJM/cc

c: Monsignor Paul Stefanko
Father Peter Kaseta, OFM Cap
Father Don Bosco Duquette, OFM Cap
Father James Hammer, OFM Cap
Father Larry Smith, SJ
Father Robert Regan, SJ
Father James O'Brien, SJ
Father Richard Bertrand, SJ
Father Frederick Morse
Father Roland Petinge, OFM
Father Ireneusz Chodakowski, MIC