

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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COPY

October 10, 2017
Year of the Eucharist

The Reverend Father Michael G. Upson
Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity
11956 Washington Street
Wolcott, New York 14590-1133

Reverend and dear Father Upson:

Thank you for your participation in the consultation on October 3, 2017, regarding the needs and future of the parishes in Wayne County. I am grateful for your observations and for all of your dedicated work in ministering to the people of God. I believe all those who gathered share a mutual commitment to the future of a vibrant Catholic presence in Wayne County. As we strive for that "unity in faith" (Ephesians 4:13), we are called to work together to ensure the vitality and wellbeing of our faith communities in light of changing circumstances and opportunities to address realistically the needs of the faithful. The Priests' Personnel Board projects the possible appointment of four priests, though not necessarily four pastors, to the County as priests move to senior status and other changes in priest appointments occur. After reflecting on the input from the preliminary consultation, I am now asking the pastors of Saint Maximillian Kolbe Parish, Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity, Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Saint Michael's Church and Saint Joseph the Worker Parish to cooperate and collaborate in addressing the following areas together:

- **Assess ministry needs** for the Wayne County area; identify areas of ministry for collaboration among some or all of the parishes; and determine ministry priorities with due regard for clergy availability into the future.
- **Assess administrative needs** for the parishes; consider the re-alignment of staffing and ministries (including a shared finance/business office as well as faith formation, youth ministry, and visitation of the homebound) to meet ministerial and administrative needs while using parish financial resources most responsibly.
- Given your identified **ministry priorities and ministerial staffing**, determine the types and availability of volunteer leadership and the corresponding training that will be needed.
- Gather information and assess current **building usage and projected capital repairs**, and develop a long-term plan for building usage or sale.
- With regard for the **special needs of migrants** in the county and the vibrant faith community present in Our Lady of Guadalupe, Marion, address how that outreach can relate more directly to the parishes to ensure a continued pastoral presence.

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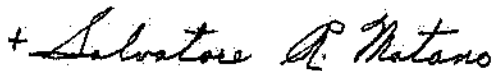
In view of the above, I respectfully ask you to work with Mr. Bernard Grizard and Dr. Shannon Loughlin from the Office of Pastoral Resources and Planning to coordinate two informational sessions in Wayne County for Finance and Pastoral Councils by November 30, 2017. They also will be facilitating and supporting your planning efforts. Following the informational sessions, I ask that you identify people to serve on a countywide pastoral planning team by January 15, 2018. This group should include all the pastors serving these parishes, the two finance directors of the county, a pastoral council and a finance council member from each of the five parishes, a ministerial staff representative, and a representative of the migrant ministry.

Please know that I am deeply grateful for your dedication to the mission of the Church as it unfolds in the life of your parish. Recognizing the strong local commitment and rural nature of the parishes in Wayne County, I am asking for this consultation to assure that this beautiful legacy of faith and devotion to Our Lord and the Church will continue into the future with the best possible use of our resources and having before our minds the motto of our first Bishop, Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, "The Supreme Law is the salvation of souls." I am confident that the Church will remain a living presence of faith in this part of our diocesan community, sustained by Our Lord and under the protection of Our Blessed Mother and our patron, Saint John Fisher.

If you have any further questions, you may contact Mr. Grizard and Dr. Loughlin.

Assuring you of my prayers and asking a continued remembrance in your good prayers, I remain, with cordial regards

Respectfully yours in Christ,


The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester

cc: The Very Reverend Father Paul J. Tomasso, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia,
Diocese of Rochester
Ms. Lisa M. Passero, Chief Financial Officer, Diocese of Rochester
Mr. Bernard Grizard, Diocesan Director, Department of Pastoral Services
✓ Dr. Shannon Loughlin, Associate Director, Department of Pastoral Services