



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, New York 14624  
(585) 328-3210

*February 11, 2019*  
*Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes*

Dear Deacon Lee:

I write to acknowledge your kind letter of February 7, 2019, received at my office on February 11, 2019, which presented the Final Report from the Wayne County Planning Team. I am well aware of the time and dedication that was required by the team to come to this document and I am deeply grateful for your work.

Following the September 4, 2018 Presbyteral Council meeting, where the reconfiguration recommendation was approved, there was still the difficult work of reviewing possible Mass schedules, staffing and volunteer opportunities, and building and infrastructure needs. I commend the team for completing these challenging areas of concern, which included town hall meetings with parishioners.

The final report was received just prior to the Presbyteral Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2019. Its contents will be included in the report to the Council made by Dr. Shannon Kilbridge, on behalf of the Office of Pastoral Resources and Planning. Noting that you will not receive this response prior to the meeting, I understand that today Dr. Kilbridge extended an invitation for you to be present at the Council meeting if your schedule allows.

Regarding the implementation of proposed recommendations, at this time there are a number of parishes throughout the Diocese of Rochester for which pastoral provisions need to be made and which may impact pastoral assignments in Wayne County. I will continue to work with the Priest Personnel Board to provide pastoral leadership throughout the Diocese, and it is a great benefit to me to have these recommendations at hand to inform my decisions. I deeply appreciate that the team understands the complexity of these appointments, and that I cannot state definitively at this time when a pastoral change may occur in Wayne County. I am grateful that the parishes are willing to work together in a phased implementation stage, which could last for a few months or even years, to help provide the necessary flexibility in pastoral planning appointments. I also encourage the parishes, as approved by the pastors, to move forward on any possible collaborative efforts during this implementation phase.

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**Deacon Robert E. Lee**  
**Chairperson, Wayne County Planning**  
**6560 Mary's Drive**  
**North Rose, New York 14516**

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Deacon Lee, I would like to include a special word of gratitude to you, in particular, in your role as Chairperson. I understand that you have done an extraordinary amount of work in between the meetings over the past year, and in the preparation of this final report. Thank you for all that you have done to make this planning process proceed. Please also extend my gratitude to the entire team, whose hard work and cooperation have been a source of encouragement, as well as providing timely and accurate information, to me and my staff.

With an assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Salvatore R. Matano*  
*The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano*  
*Bishop of Rochester*

cc: Father William F. Laird, Pastor, St. Katharine Drexel Parish  
Father Symon Peter Ntaiya, Pastor, St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish  
Father David M. Tedesche, Pastor, St. Joseph the Worker Parish  
Father Jeffrey S. Tunnicliff, Pastor, St. Michael's Parish, Newark  
Father Michael G. Upson, Pastor, Blessed Trinity Catholic Community, Wolcott  
Mr. Bernard Grizard, Diocesan Director, Department of Pastoral Services  
Dr. Shannon Kilbridge, Associate Director, Department of Pastoral Services