



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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February 14, 2018
Ash Wednesday

The Reverend Father Frank E. Lioi
Saint Mary and Martha Parish
Saint Mary's Church
15 Clark Street
Auburn, New York 13021

Reverend and dear Father Lioi:

I write to acknowledge your gracious letter dated February 14, 2018, in response to my letter of May 2, 2017, regarding planning for the future pastoral ministry of the parishes of Auburn and Northern Cayuga County, in particular addressing the reconfiguration of the parishes in this area.

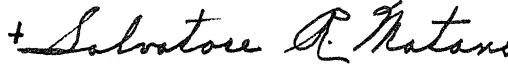
Allow me to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for the prayerful, pastoral and conscientious manner in which you have approached this most important subject. I also do appreciate the strong Catholic tradition in Auburn, which, as you know, I have come to appreciate personally through my many pastoral visits to Auburn. I am particularly grateful that you intend to revive still another beautiful Auburn tradition, that is, raising up vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In addition, I readily acknowledge the cooperative, planning efforts that already have occurred and continue among the Auburn and Northern Cayuga parishes. No doubt, these collaborative efforts have contributed to the success of this recent pastoral planning proposal.

In reviewing the scenarios that you presented, I am inclined to support **Scenario Two**, which looks more intently into the future. This Scenario configures the parishes into two communities: Saint Mary, Saints Mary and Martha, Our Lady of the Snow (six churches); Saint Alphonsus, Holy Family, Sacred Heart/Saint Ann (4 churches). This configuration envisions two pastors and two parochial vicars. However, before making a decision, I wish to consult with the Priests' Personnel Board and other diocesan staff. In the interim, I ask that you continue to build upon the collaborative initiatives already in place, namely further cultivating a cooperative spirit in the areas of catechesis, youth ministry, and shared finance and administrative staffing to achieve the goal you have recommended.

Renewing my gratitude and assuring you of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester

cc: The Very Reverend Father Paul J. Tomasso, Vicar General, Director of Priests' Personnel
The Reverend Father Daniel J. Condon, Chancellor
Ms. Lisa M. Passero, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Bernard Grizard, Director of Pastoral Services
Ms. Karen Rinefierd, Planning Consultant
Mr. Thomas Kubus, Associate Director for Strategic Planning and Parish Finance