



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1150 Buffalo Road  
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May 2, 2017

*Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

The Reverend Father John G. Gathenya  
The Church of the Holy Family  
85 North Street  
Auburn, New York 13021

Reverend and dear Father Gathenya:

I am writing to you regarding our mutual commitment to the future of a vibrant Catholic presence in the Auburn and Northern Cayuga area of our Diocese. As we strive for that “unity in faith” (Ephesians 4:13), we are called to work together to ensure the vitality and well being of our faith communities in light of changing circumstances and opportunities to address realistically the needs of the faithful. Thus, I am asking the pastors of Holy Family, Sacred Heart/Saint Ann, Saint Alphonsus, Saint Mary, Saints Mary and Martha, and Our Lady of the Snow to cooperate and collaborate in addressing the following areas together:

- Assess ministry needs for the Auburn and Northern Cayuga 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 and potential future clustering. Beyond the parishes and St. Joseph School, please consider ministry needs for The Commons on St. Anthony, Auburn Community Hospital, and Cayuga Community College.
- Assess administrative needs for the parishes.
- Consider seriously 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 St. Joseph School, address cash flow, increasing financial resources, fundraising, and recruitment/enrollment while connecting the school more directly to the parishes and ensuring a pastoral presence.

In view of the above, I respectfully ask that you identify people to serve on a pastoral planning team by June 30, 2017. This group should include all the priests serving these parishes,

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your finance director, a pastoral council and a finance council member from each of the six parishes, a ministerial staff representative, and two representatives from St. Joseph School. I have asked Ms. Karen Rinefierd, Coordinator of Leadership Formation/Parishes, and Mr. Thomas Kubus, Associate Director for Strategic Planning and Parish Finance, to facilitate and support your planning effort.

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 rich tradition of the Auburn and Cayuga parishes, 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 Ms. Rinefierd.

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

Respectfully yours in Christ,

*+ Salvatore R. Matano*  
*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  
✓ Ms. Karen Rinefierd, Coordinator of Leadership Formation/Parishes, Diocese of  
Rochester  
Mr. Thomas Kubus, Associate Director for Strategic Planning and Parish Finance,  
Diocese of Rochester