

## **Prayer for our Future Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y.**

Oh God, Loving Shepherd who embodies all that is Wisdom and Justice,  
You have blessed our diocese time and again with good,  
wise, and holy bishops.

We are grateful for Bishop Matano's dedicated ministry to us.  
We ask you to bless him as he completes his service  
to the Diocese of Rochester and enters into retirement.  
Grant him good health and a deserved rest from all his devoted labors.

R./ For this we pray, dear merciful God

Creator God, who birthed all living things,  
Who formed order out of chaos, and dared to unite yourself with humankind,  
you know who our new Bishop needs to be.  
You know all of our foibles, our strengths, our weaknesses, and our desires.

You can take the seeds that have been planted by past generations,  
water and nurture them and turn them into a bountiful harvest.  
Oh Holy Spirit, in all your fiery-ness forge us into a community  
that can affect great healing and an abundance of grace.

R./ For this we pray, dear merciful God

God of All Grace, we open our hearts to a new Bishop who will lead us into the future  
with hope and encouragement.  
We pray that he will have a lively spirit, keen intellect,  
and the emotional and leadership maturity to navigate the stormy seas  
of cosmic change that are sweeping the globe.

May the graces conferred by the orders of bishop and priest  
as well as the Spirit-filled call of Vatican II  
be used for the good of all God's holy faithful.  
May clericalism and the lure of holy eliteness not be a burden  
or barrier to your faithful service.

R./For this we pray, dear merciful God

Oh Holy Peace-Maker call forward a Bishop who will usher in a new beginning,  
especially with the people who hunger for the recognition of their own integrity  
and dignity imbued in them through baptism.

We pray that he will acknowledge the joys and sorrows of people bowed down by a society rife with economic, racial and personal indignities and raise us up in new hope for a future that is inclusive and restorative.

Oh great Creator, heal us of our divisions, and of our collective sin of blindness and failures to correct past injustices.

R./For this we pray, dear merciful God

Divine Shepherd, We your spirit-filled believers pray for our future Bishop, with assurances of our willingness to be bridge builders and ark builders for our own community, our city and the world.

We pledge,  
by the sweat of our brows  
and the callouses on our hands  
to be architects of the new kin-dom,  
where we will all be willing to call each other brothers and sisters in Christ.

R./For this we pray, dear merciful God