



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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COPY

*March 28, 2016
Monday within the Octave of Easter*

Reverend and dear Father Maloney:

Wishing you the joy of this holy Easter season and invoking the Risen Lord's blessings upon you and those entrusted to your pastoral care, I acknowledge your gracious letter, dated March 30, 2016, with enclosures, in which you "request the merging (amalgamation) of the clustered parishes: St. James the Apostle, Trumansburg; St. Francis Solanus, Interlaken and Holy Cross, Ovid." Please be assured that this material will be carefully reviewed in preparation for its presentation to the Diocesan Presbyteral Council at its next meeting scheduled for May 3, 2016.

I am deeply grateful for your efforts in effecting this merger and the conscientious attention that you have given to it. I also appreciate the participation of the laity in this process, which demonstrates the love and concern among your parishioners for the continued Catholic presence in this area of the Diocese.

As we look to the Presbyteral Council on May 3rd, I ask that you continue to maintain contact with Father Daniel J. Condon, Chancellor, and Ms. Karen Rinefierd, Coordinator of Leadership Formation for Parishes, both of whom, I understand, have been working closely with you and have been of great assistance. Also, if you wish you be present at the Presbyteral Council meeting, you are most welcomed to do so. Kindly indicate your intention to my office so that you may be advised of the time that this matter will be discussed.

Upon completion of the merger, I would be pleased to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at a time and place that you suggest.

Assuring you of my prayers and asking a remembrance in your good prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Salvatore R. Matano

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

**cc: The Reverend Father Daniel J. Condon, Chancellor
Ms. Karen Rinefierd, Coordinator of Leadership Formation for Parishes**

**The Reverend Father Bernard M. Maloney, OFM, Cap.
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