



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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March 19, 2016
The Solemnity of Saint Joseph

My dear brothers in Christ:

It is my privilege as the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester to invite you to participate in this, the second annual **Rochester Catholic Men's Conference**.

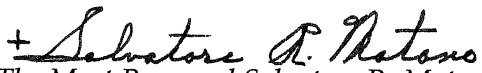
For the past several years, many of our brothers have traveled to nearby dioceses to attend men's conferences to strengthen their Catholic faith, and to receive encouragement in their vocations as sons of God. Last year, through the initiative and hard work of many men within our Diocese, we were blessed to host our own conference. Now, building upon that great success, I strongly encourage you to join hundreds of other men at the second annual Rochester Catholic Men's Conference, to be held October 1, 2016, at Saint Jude Church in Gates.

The theme for this year's Conference is based upon Saint Luke's Gospel (*Luke 22: 24-32*) when Jesus Christ teaches His faithful disciples about true greatness. Then, turning to Saint Peter, Jesus reminds him of the trials and tribulations that come from being His disciple, which can be overcome only with a strong and vibrant faith. But the mandate is not merely personal; He also instructs Saint Peter to "*Strengthen your brothers.*" (*Luke 22:32*). The day-long Conference will include the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, uplifting music and nationally acclaimed speakers – all of which will help us to grow closer to Jesus Christ. Having a strong faith ourselves, we are then able to be sent by the Lord to strengthen our family members, co-workers, friends and fellow parishioners. It is my prayer that the Conference will guide us in this missionary mandate.

I am grateful for the organizers of this event who worked closely with the staff at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, for their initiative, prayers and planning. I hope that you are able to be present for this Conference to discover, or even rediscover, Jesus Christ speaking to you.

Asking Saint Joseph, faithful husband of Mary, courageous foster father of Jesus, and patron of the Universal Church, to intercede for us, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester