



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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January 29, 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Every bishop is called to be a true shepherd in imitation of the Lord. But every bishop needs the help and support of his brother priests, deacons, religious and laity to fulfill this role. No one person can do it alone. As employees in our Diocese, you share with me in the mission of evangelization and service to our sisters and brothers in the community of faith.

Among those whom we are privileged to serve are our children, the future of our Church and precious gifts to us all. As a Diocesan family, we must always and everywhere assure their safety, protect them from all injury, and provide truly safe environments for our children and young people entrusted to our care.

In order to fulfill this Diocesan mandate, we have instituted on line training courses. The courses are provided through a third party vendor, **Proud to Protect LLC**. The required online training courses are applicable for all Diocesan employees including clergy, teachers and all others who work within our schools, parishes, Diocesan agencies and institutions, and the Pastoral Center. Employees must complete initial training, **Recognizing Child Abuse**, at the time of hire and complete the renewal course, **Continuing Our Commitment to Protect**, *every three years from date of initial training*. I am confident that you can appreciate the need for complete compliance as we must make every effort to protect our children, God's children.

Thanking you for your collaboration and support in this vital area of Diocesan life, I remain, with an assurance of my prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Salvatore R. Matano*

The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester