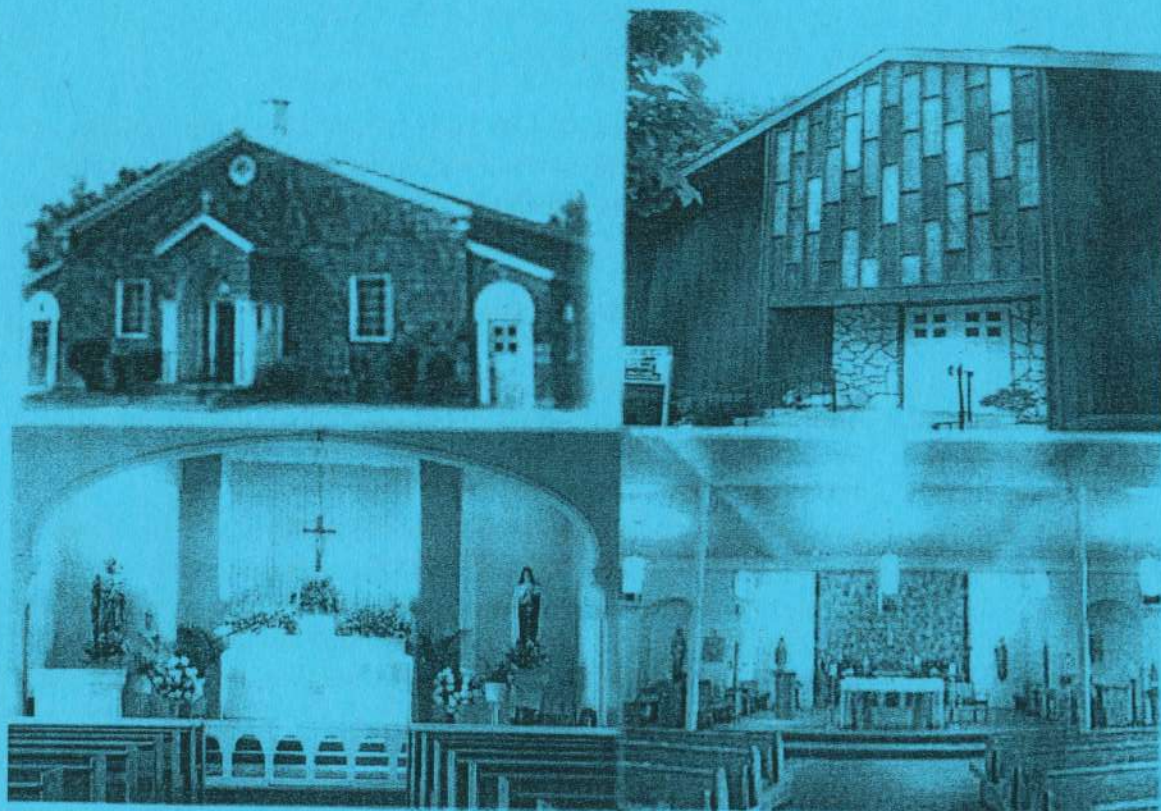


*Our Lady of Good Counsel Church*



*Closing Mass*  
*May 7, 2006*





## DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

1150 Buffalo Road · Rochester, NY 14624-1890

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**Bishop's Office**

May 7, 2006

Dear Friends,

It is with regret that I cannot be with you at this Mass, solemnizing the closing of your Church. Please know that I am with you in my thoughts and prayers today.

Like the people of St. Augustine Church, the closing of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church creates many emotions and changes for you. I myself must keep focused on what you have set out to do in order to fulfill your "Vision for The Urban Church of Rochester", that you sent to me in your final plan.

I think of you this day while I read from your Vision Statement:

"Our commitment is to form hopeful, joyful, and alive communities which are attractively colorful in diversities of race, culture, language, education, social and financial status.

We work to build communities of faith that are open, welcoming, warm, flexible, and spontaneous, where hospitality is not only felt among those who previously were alienated and who presently worship with us at Sunday Mass, but also with those who live in the neighborhoods... We work to form communities where the love of God is rebuilding the ancient ruins' and becoming places of beauty where the place for the New Jerusalem is being built..."

I thank you for making the difficult choice of ministries verses many buildings and having the courage to make the sacrifice needed in order to fulfill this your vision. I thank God for each of you and ask for the Holy Spirit to fill you with peace and presence on this day of sadness.

Thank you for your commitment to the people of God, seen and unseen in your neighborhood. May God Bless and hold you close on this day.

With every good wish, I remain,

Your brother in Christ

†Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

*God's Love Endures Forever*





## Prelude

### Hymn: "Our Lady of Good Counsel"

O Virgin Mother, Lady of Good Counsel  
Sweetest picture artist ever drew,  
In all my doubts I fly to thee for guidance  
Mother tell me what am I to do?  
By thy face to Jesus face inclining  
Sheltered safely 'neath thy mantle blue;  
By His little arms around thee entwining  
O Mother tell me what am I to do?

By the light within thy dear eyes dwelling;  
By the tears that dim their luster too;  
By the story that these tears are telling;  
Mother tell me what am I to do?  
Life alas is often dark and dreary  
Cheating shadows hide the truth from view.  
When my soul is most perplexed and weary  
O Mother tell me what am I to do?

Plead my cause, for what can He refuse thee?  
Get me back His saving grace anew.  
Ah! I know thou dost not wish to lose me,  
Mother tell me what am I to do?  
Thus alike when needful sorrows chasten,  
As amid joy's visits fair and few,  
To thy shrine with loving trust I hasten,  
O Mother tell me, what am I to do?

Be of all my friends the best and dearest,  
O my counselor, sincere and true!  
Let thy voice sound always first and clearest,  
Mother tell me what am I to do?  
In thy guidance tranquilly reposing,  
Now I face my toils and cares anew;  
All through life, and at its awful closing,  
O Mother tell me, what am I to do?



**"Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life"**

**Presider:** Rev. Raymond H. Fleming

**Welcome:** Andrea Ehmann

### **Introductory Rites**

**Gathering Hymn: "On This Day, O Beautiful Mother"**

#### **Refrain**

On this day, O beautiful Mother, On this day we give thee our love. Near thee, Madonna, fondly we hover, Trusting thy gentle care to prove.

#### **Verses**

1. On this day we ask to share, Dearest Mother, thy sweet care; Aid us ere our feet astray Wander from thy guiding way.
2. Queen of angels, deign to hear Lispering children's humble pray'r; Young hearts gain, O Virgin pure, Sweetly to thy self allure.

**Procession:** May Crowning: Gerry, Susan, Heather, Jeffrey Kloc

**Processional Hymn: "Bring Flowers of the Rarest"**

#### **Refrain (sung twice):**

O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the angels, Queen of the May,

**Kyrie (sung):** Kevin Welling

**Gloria (sung)**

**Opening Prayer**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading:** Acts 4:8-12 John Cottrell

#### **Psalm Response:**

"Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life"

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3:1-2 Brigit Kernan

**Gospel:** John 10:11-18

#### **Homily**

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Jim Kernan

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

#### **Presentation of Gifts:**

Margaret and John Mawn  
Marguerite and John Caufield  
Mary and Dick Robinson  
Betty, Mark and Kathy Bianchi, Jo LaVilla

Antique Crucifix  
Bishop Kearney picture  
Infant of Prague vestments  
Chalice







**Offertory Hymn:**  
**"One Bread, One Body"**

John Foley, S.J.

**Refrain**

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

**Verses**

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.
2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

**Holy Holy ( Mass of Creation)**

**Eucharistic Acclamation (Mass of Creation)**

**Great Amen (Mass of Creation)**

**Communion Rite**

**Lord's Prayer (sung)**

**Sign of Peace**

**Hymn: "Prayer of St. Francis"**

Sebastian Temple

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

**Refrain:**

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light,  
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

**Agnus Dei**

Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.





## **Communion**

### **Communion Hymns:**

#### **"There is a Longing"**

Anne Quigley

##### **Refrain**

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,  
for you to reveal yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts for love  
we only find in you, our God.

##### **Verses**

1. For justice, for freedom, for mercy: here our prayer.  
In sorrow, in grief: be near, hear our prayer, O God.
2. For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.  
In weakness, in fear: be near, hear our prayer, O God.
3. For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.  
In sickness, in death: be near, hear our prayer, O God.

#### **"Be Not Afraid"**

Bob Dufford, SJ

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

##### **Refrain:**

Be not afraid. I go before you always.  
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side.  
Know that I'm with you through it all.

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,  
Blessed, blessed are you!





### **Communion Hymns (continued):**

#### **"Here I Am Lord"**

Dan Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

#### **Refrain:**

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

### **Meditation:**

#### **"Hail Mary, Gentle Woman"**

Carey Landry

#### **Refrain:**

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle  
Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love.

#### **Verses:**

1. You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the Son. You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.
2. Blessed are you among women, Blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

### **Prayer after Communion**



## Concluding Rites

### Final Blessing

### Closing Hymns:

#### "How Great Thou Art"

Stuart K. Hine

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r through-out the universe displayed,

#### Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, his Son, not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!





### **Closing Hymns (continued):**

#### **"They'll Know We Are Christians"**

Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

#### **Refrain:**

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

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### **Solemn Closing of the Church Doors**

**Please join us at Logan's Party House for a reception  
immediately following the final blessing.**

#### ***Liturgical Ministers:***

**Music Ministers:** Renate Schulz, Debbie Millet, Patty Lorenzen,  
Lucy Ann Ormiston, Vincent Alonci

**Hospitality Ministers:** Joe Nolan, Art D'Angelo, Walt Meisenzahl,  
Marvin Ritzenthaler, Mario DeMasi

**Server:** Bernie Higgins

**Sacristins:** David & Kathy Moore

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Florence DiLaura, Peggy Reigelsperger,  
Terry Maccarone, Marcia Perotto,  
Marilyn Catherine



May 7, 2006

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Today, each one of us gathered here in the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel for the last time, incarnate the ancient antiphon of the Roman Catholic liturgy:

Introibo ad altare Dei. (I will go unto the altar of God.)

Ad Deum qui lætificat juventutem meam. (The God who gives joy to my youth.)

How many times these words have echoed in this church since it first opened on October 7, 1928? How many Sunday masses? How many daily masses? How many Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations and May Crownings? How many Marriages? How many Funerals did these walls witness?

Today we close these doors for the last time. There is certainly a sense of sorrow and grief in this moment. Our life, our history, is connected to our parish church. When I first arrived in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward, there were more children at Our Lady of Good Counsel than in all of the other parishes combined. In a very short period of time, and for a variety of reasons, these demographics changed, drastically, for the Church the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward and the world around us. And the people of this parish have responded to these changes. We could have simply decided to wait until something broke that could not be fixed and then we would be forced into action, or we could face the difficult choices with the future generations in mind.

What we are doing today could not have happened without the courageous and bold faith of the entire community. Never losing sight of the grief at hand, those involved kept asking the question, "If we cannot leave a Church behind, what is there we can leave, to allow the presence of Jesus Christ to remain alive in our parish?" "Is this the best we can do?"

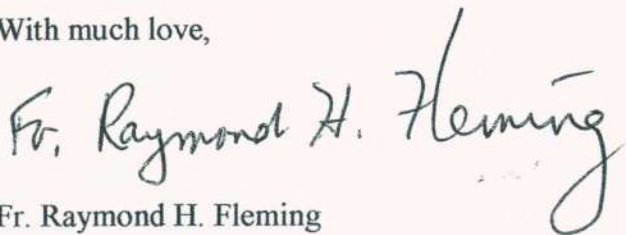
Today's Scripture readings offer much hope.

Beloved, we are God's children now;  
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed, we shall be like him... (1John 3:1-3)

Today's "Closing Mass" offers an incarnation of that hope. We are a community that lives out the faith we proclaim: The Lord is our Shepherd.

With much love,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Fr. Raymond H. Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "F" is large and loops around the "r". The "H" is tall and narrow. The "Fleming" part is written in a more fluid, connected script.

Fr. Raymond H. Fleming