

## **A GUIDE FOR PRAYERFUL DISCERNMENT IN THE ELECTION OF A NEW BISHOP**

ANiC Clergy, Lay Delegates to the Synod, and all who are joining us in prayer as we discern the Lord's leading in the election of a new bishop ~ Welcome into this prayerful process!

May the Holy Spirit give us all true discernment of his voice, his ways and his will, in Christ our Great Shepherd, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Collect for the Election of a New Bishop**

O Great and Mighty God, who bestows all good gifts and who anoints leaders to lead your church and advance your Kingdom, graciously guide the minds and hearts of those who will choose a new bishop for this Diocese. Let them follow in the examples of faith set forth by our Savior and his Apostles to trust in your provision of the person whom you desire to fulfill this office. Lord, bless and guard the candidates that from among them we would receive a shepherd who by your power will protect, feed and tend the flock of Christ. Grant us grace to obediently follow him, receiving in unity your chosen leader. Go before him and us, that by your grace, help, and favor, we may continue the work you have prepared for us to do, that we your church may bring honor and glory to your holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Scripture verses for meditation**

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (qualifications of a bishop)

James 1:5-8 (seeking wisdom)

I Corinthians 2:11-16 (discernment comes from the Holy Spirit)

John 17:20-21 (for unity within our diocese)

### **Closing Prayer**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.