BLESSING FOR
MOST REV. GERALD R. BARNES
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

God of all creation,
we offer you grateful praise for your many gifts,
and especially today for the gift of Bishop Barnes
to our Diocese and in our lives.

We give you thanks for his vocation to the priesthood
and we pray for him on the day of his birth.

As a people united in love and compassion,
we strive as a Church Community to follow his example
to bring the Gospel of love, compassion,
and tolerance to our world.

May the examples of Mary, Our Blessed Mother,
especially under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe,
St. Bernardine, our diocesan patron, and all the apostles
and saints guide him in his ministry.

Bestow your blessing on Bishop Barnes,
your servant who shepherds our diocese
with love and humility.

May the light of your truth shine on your servant as he
fervently devotes himself to spreading your message
of love, mercy, and justice.

Surround him with your love that he may
enjoy many happy years,
all of them pleasing to you.

May his life and good works always serve to bless
and glorify your name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.