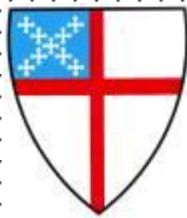


Welcome  
to  
The Church of the  
Transfiguration  
Bishop  
&  
Mrs. Knisley!



## Welcome, Bishop Knisely!

**T**oday our Bishop joins us. For us, it is a reason to celebrate! This festive occasion gives us a great chance to learn about the Bishop, what he does and why he is special to all of us. Let's take some time today during Sunday's Cool! and learn more about the Bishop and the Diocese and the Episcopal Church. OK?  
Let's get started!

**T**he word **bishop** comes from the Greek word "**episkopos**" which means "**overseer**." The Episcopal Church is a church overseen by a bishop. A bishop is a priest of the church and is specially chosen and consecrated (blessed) to serve as a bishop.

**I**n our diocese, **the Diocese of Rhode Island**, we have one bishop.



Here he is! His name is **Bishop Nicholas Knisely**.

He used to teach at a Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.  
**Can you guess what he used to like to teach?**

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**Here is a hint: They sparkle!**

Do you know that he is Rhode Island's:

- a. 107<sup>th</sup> Bishop
- b. 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop
- c. 56<sup>th</sup> Bishop

**T**he bishop meets regularly and works hard for the people of Rhode Island. The Bishop tries to visit each church.

Our Bishop travels all over the diocese. He has a lot of work to do because there are about \_\_\_\_\_ parishes in the diocese.

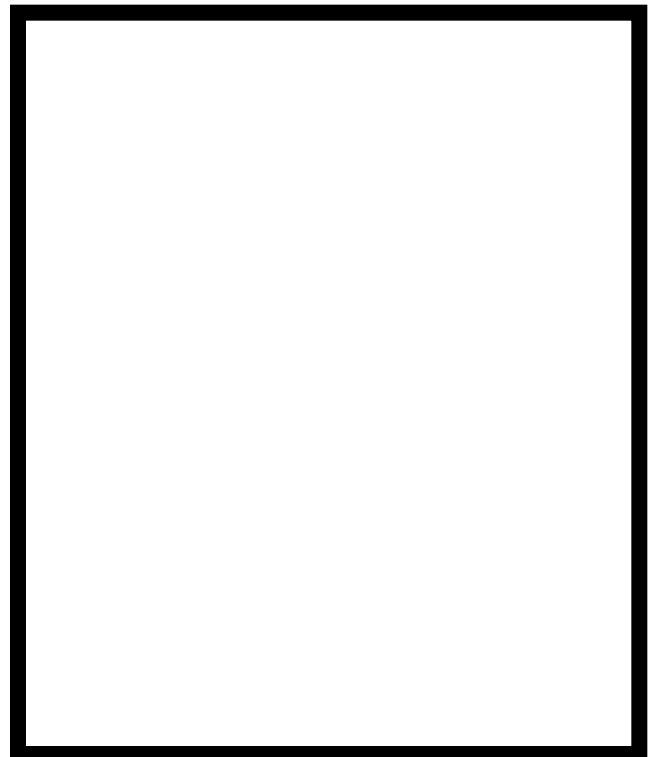
- a. 65
- b. 2970
- c. 422
- d. 6

There are about \_\_\_\_\_ active baptized members of the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island.

- a. 64,386
- b. 22222240
- c. 17500
- d. 7

You are special because you are one of them!

Draw a picture of you in the box!



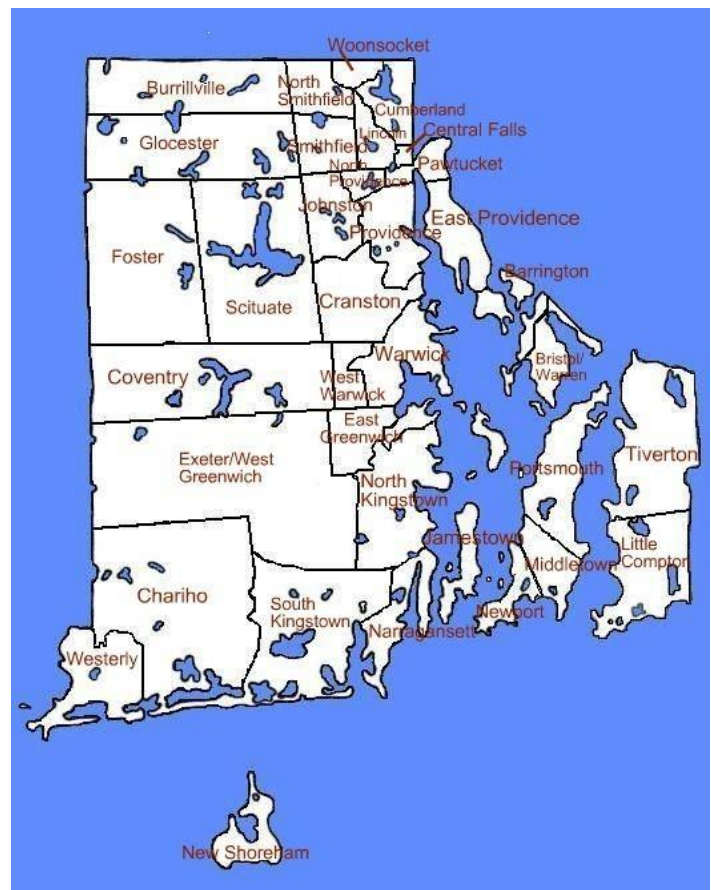


This is a very special symbol. It represents our community. It is the symbol of the Diocese of Rhode Island. Can you see what it says at the bottom of the picture? Write it here. \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think it means?

The Bishop works in an office in Providence. The office for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island is in Providence.

Can you find where the Bishop's office is on the map?  
Where are we?



## Symbols

When the bishop comes he will bring some things with him. Some things he will carry. Some things he will wear.

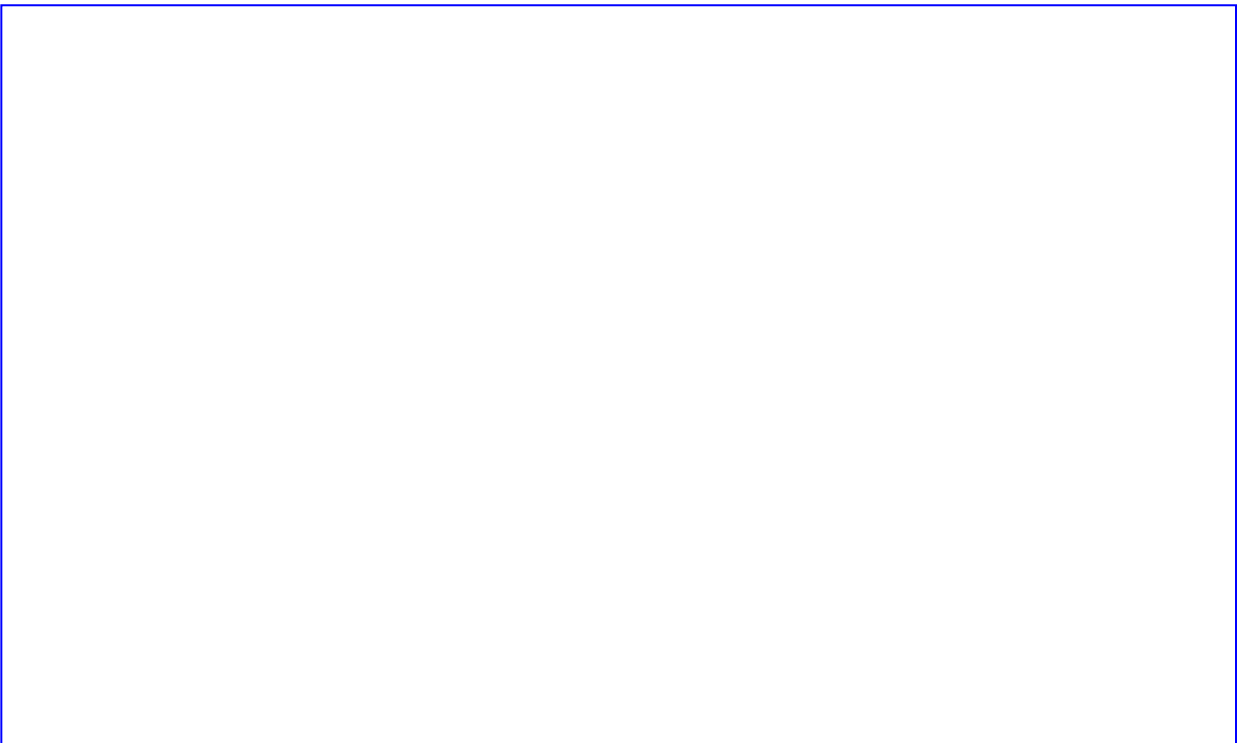
The bishop often wears a purple shirt when he comes to visit. When the bishop comes to worship he will wear vestments. The stole will match the color of the church season or will match the church hangings for special services like baptism, ordination, or funerals.

**What color stole is the bishop wearing when he visits your church?**

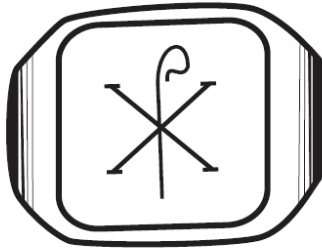
The bishop will wear a big cross, called a pectoral cross, around his neck. He received the cross when he became a bishop.

**Why do you think a bishop wears a cross?**

**Draw a picture of the bishop's cross.**



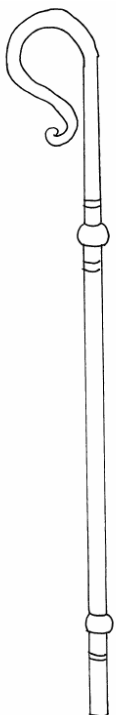
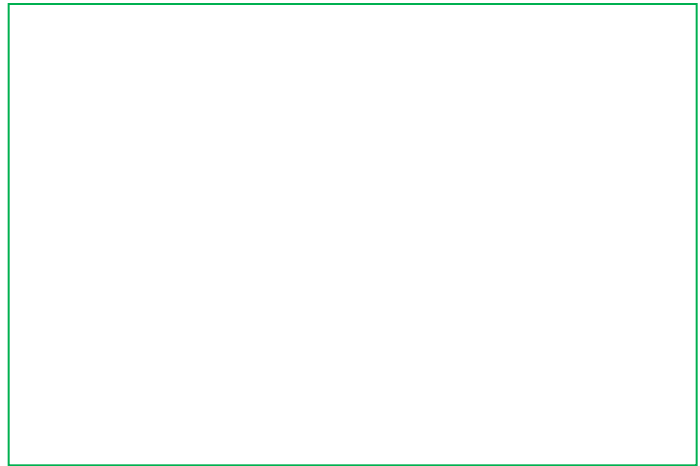
## Bishop's Ring



Every bishop wears a special ring. The bishop can press the ring in hot wax to make their very own seal on special papers. The bishop does this to let people know that these papers are good. Long, long ago, a bishop's ring would be smashed to bits after they died. They did this so that no one could copy their seal.

The bishop will wear a ring. It is special. The bishop can press the ring in hot wax to make his very own seal on special papers.

Can you draw our Bishop's ring? What symbol is on our Bishop's ring?



The bishop will bring his **crosier** when he visits your church. A crosier is a staff that the Bishop holds. It looks like a shepherd's staff to remind us of Jesus. We call Jesus, "The Good Shepherd."

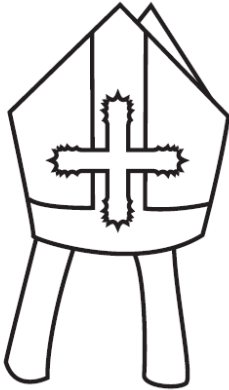
Why do you think the Bishop carries a crosier?

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## My Bishop's Mitre



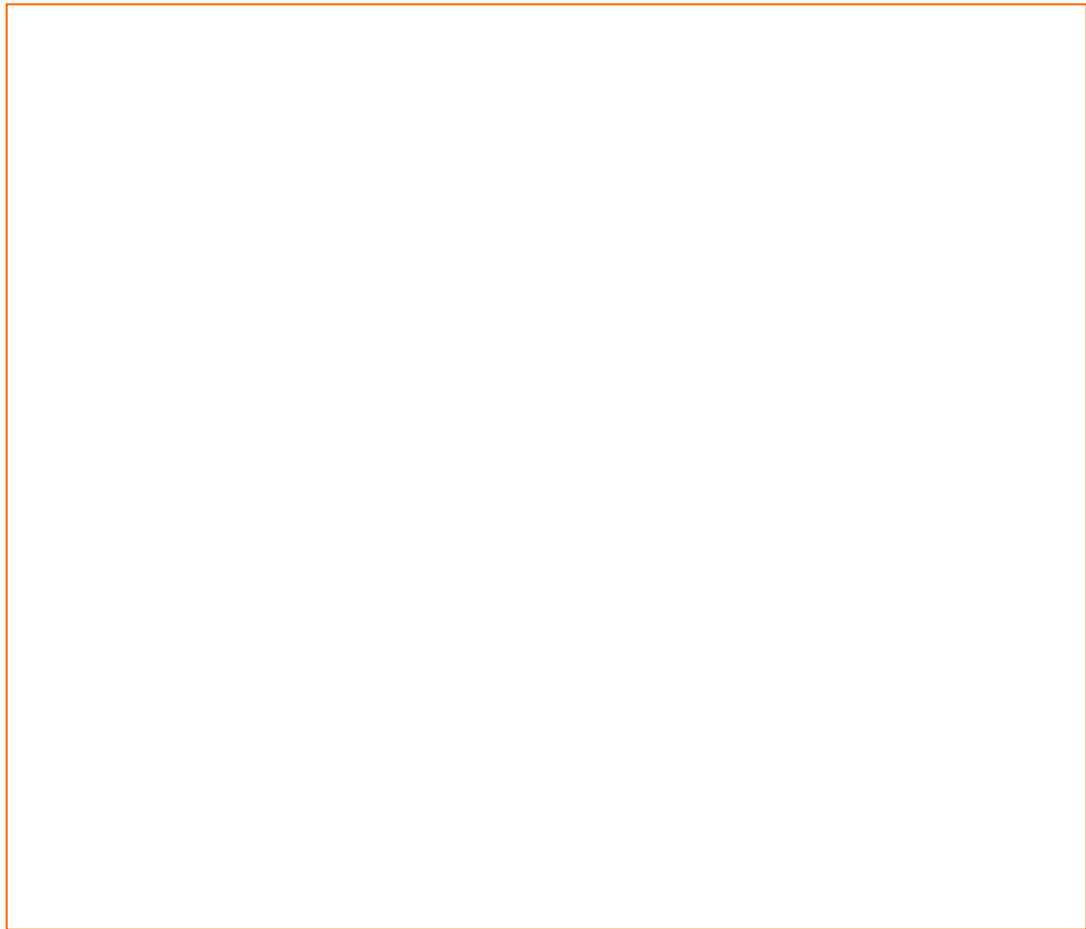
The bishop's hat is called a mitre. The mitre has a point at the top to remind us of a flame, like the flame the disciples received at the first Pentecost. We remember that the bishop is a successor of the apostles.

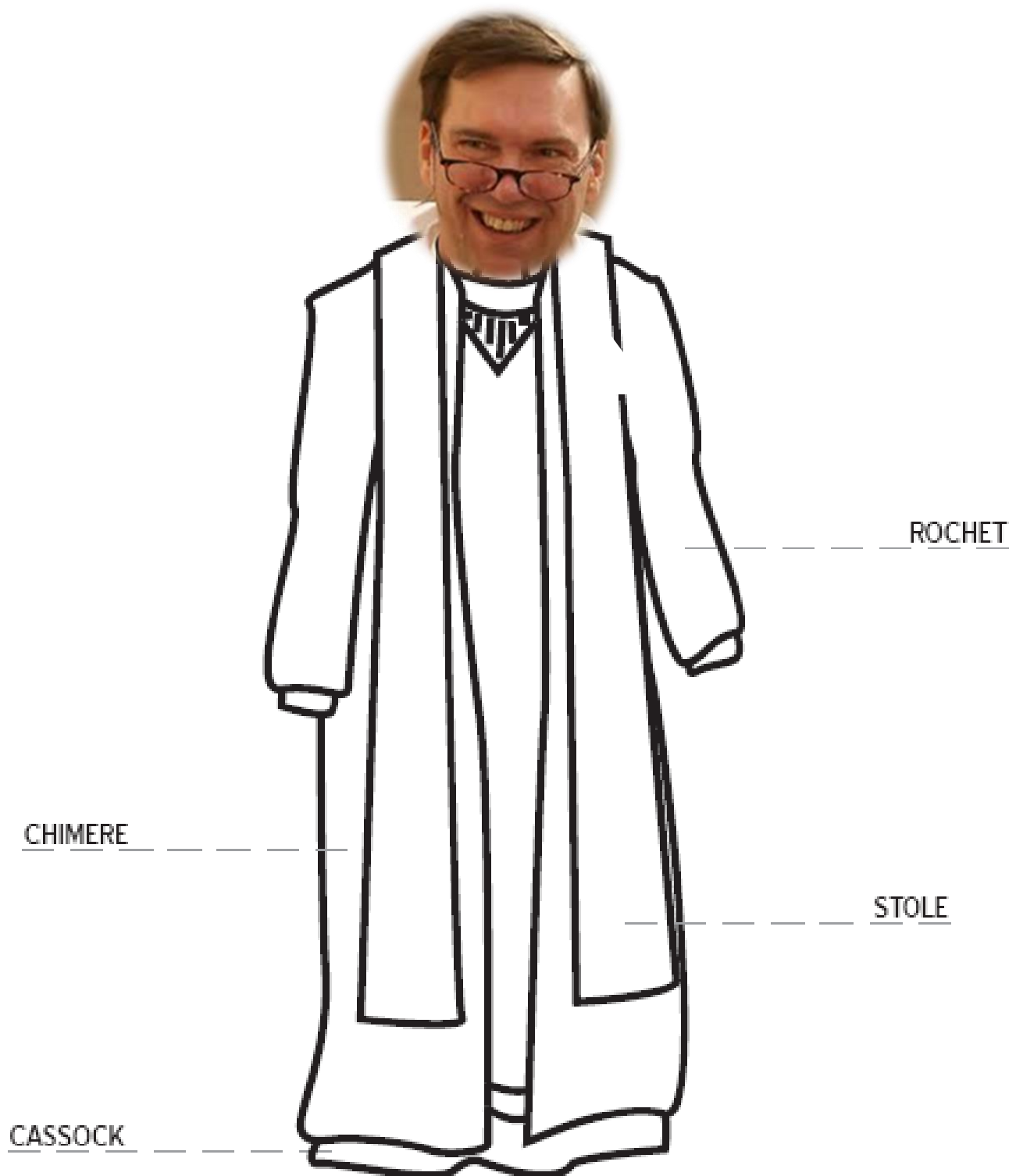
Some Bishops wear a **mitre**.

A miter is a pointed hat that symbolizes the "tongues of fire" the apostles received at the first Pentecost. The tabs represent the Old and New Testament and the two sacraments necessary for salvation.

**Have you ever seen your Bishop wear a mitre?**

**Draw a miter. Put a church symbol on the mitre.**





The bishop wears a PURPLE **cassock**. Over this, the bishop wears a WHITE **rochet** with puffy sleeves. Over this, is a RED **chimere** that looks like a long vest, open at the front. When a bishop celebrates the Eucharist, a **stole** is worn that matches the color of the church season.

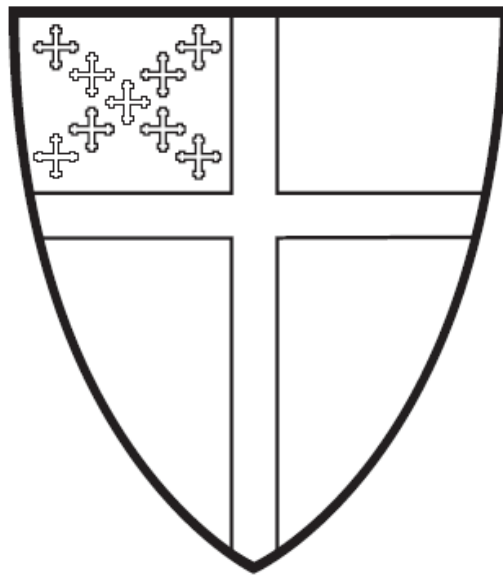


When a bishop celebrates the Eucharist, a stole is worn that matches the color of the church season. The stole is a reminder to live in imitation of Christ. It is worn like a yoke around a priest's neck. "For my yoke is easy and my burden light."

Matthew 11: 30

## More Symbols

### The Episcopal Shield



The first bishop in America was Samuel Seabury. Bishops in England would not consecrate anyone who did not pledge allegiance to the Crown. So, Samuel Seabury went to Scotland where the bishops were free to consecrate him. In honor of this deed, The Episcopal Shield bears a cross of St. Andrew in the upper left corner. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland.

The Episcopal shield and flag are red, white and blue. They are the colors of the United States and of England.

The cross in the center is red. It represents St. George, patron saint of England.

The upper left corner is blue. It shows the x - shaped cross of St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland. The first American bishop was consecrated in Scotland. This cross is made of nine white crosses, representing the first nine dioceses in the Episcopal Church in the United States.

Color the shield.

## Word Search

A	J	D	I	O	C	E	S	E	T
S	A	E	B	E	R	I	C	O	C
T	B	I	S	H	O	P	H	D	A
O	M	U	N	S	Z	A	U	L	S
L	B	T	R	M	I	T	R	E	S
E	O	S	U	S	E	J	C	I	O
M	I	G	N	I	R	S	H	H	K
E	R	E	M	I	H	C	T	S	E

RING

SHIELD

CHURCH

MITRE

CROZIER

DIOCESE

BISHOP

CHIMERE

STOLE

JESUS

CASSOCK

Rhode Island even has a special prayer of its own. Take a look!

### PRAYER FOR RHODE ISLAND

*Praise be to You, O God, for the little prism where men have seen the  
splendor of Your glory:*

*In the conscience of a single man who ventured to settle his life under  
Your Providence alone;*

*In the coastal towns where faith was planted in open companionship and  
none was barred;*

*By the sparkling bays where spirit grew because there is no limit of  
Your love.*

*Bless, O Lord, the smallest state of our fellowship, that her people may  
ever nourish the widest of our hopes;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

Write a prayer to thank God!

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