

Inaugurate

*The augurs of the Roman Empire were charged
With the interpretation of omens and signs
For guidance in the affairs of citizens.*

*Diviners and prognosticators,
Prophets of the public good, soothsayers,
Their office a trust, and consecrated.*

*Now at year's beginning, light returning
Pray anew for guidance and illumination,
Guardians of the common wealth!*

*Like Ariadne's thread through labyrinth
Please publicize the changing traffic patterns.
Compensate our public servants fairly,*

*And like Parson Main, look kindly down
On our downtown—the heart of Rochester!—
And those who'd make Main Street a destination*

*For art, commerce, food, theatre and fun!
Now you are inaugurated, augur wisely,
From the great heights of this City Hall see far and well.*

*By: Andrew Periale
Rochester Poet Laureate*

