

Renew My Church: Invitation to Parish Conversation

Please Join Our Parish Conversation on *Renew My Church*

As a first step, we invite you to join parish leadership for our Renew My Church parish conversation on **Tuesday, October 12, 7:00pm** in the **PJ23 School Cafeteria**.

During this conversation we will:

- Pray and discuss Renew My Church and the process we are beginning together,
- Review important information and questions about our community such as the strengths and challenges that exist in our grouping, and
- Be introduced through prayer to the possible structural scenarios for our grouping's faith communities
- Receive an update on what the Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team has been discussing
- Answer any questions you may have, and
- Ask for your initial feedback on the scenarios being discussed.



All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Renew My Church is a faithful response to Christ's call to renew His Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago; it is a journey that is both spiritual (to re-encounter Jesus Christ as disciples and parish communities) and structural (to ensure our parishes have adequate resources for vitality).

Through Renew My Church initiatives, the Archdiocese will re-commit our local Church to our gospel commission to make disciples, build vital communities of faith and inspire witness to bring the light and hope of Christ to a world in need. These mission imperatives guide all that we do in and through the spiritual and structural efforts of renewal.

One initiative of Renew My Church is focused on increasing the vitality of our local communities. Cardinal Cupich has asked our parish to come together with the other parishes in our grouping to start a process of reflection, discernment, and planning to consider how we can collaborate and combine resources so that we are better equipped to bring Jesus Christ to the world today.

Our journey has been collaborating with our neighbors to:

- Assess the current situation in our community,
- Understand the criteria and principles for our planning efforts,
- Discuss possible scenarios for how our grouping's parishes could be structured in the future, and
- Compile our feedback to share with Archdiocesan leadership and Cardinal Cupich

Let us hold each other and the other parish faith communities in our grouping in prayer as we enter this time of rededication to our faith in Jesus Christ and planning for the future.

Renueva mi Iglesia: Invitación a la conversación parroquial

Únase a nuestra conversación parroquial sobre renovar mi iglesia

Como primer paso, lo invitamos a unirse al liderazgo parroquial para nuestra conversación parroquial Renueva mi Iglesia **el martes 12 de octubre a las 7:00 pm** en la cafetería de la **escuela PJ23**.



Durante esta conversación:

- Ore y discuta Renueva mi Iglesia y el proceso que estamos comenzando juntos,
- Revisar información y preguntas importantes sobre nuestra comunidad, como las fortalezas y desafíos que existen en nuestra agrupación, y
- Conozca a través de la oración los posibles escenarios estructurales de las comunidades de fe de nuestra agrupación.
- Reciba una actualización sobre lo que ha estado discutiendo el Equipo de Discernimiento y Comentarios de Agrupación
- Responda cualquier pregunta que pueda tener y
- Solicite sus comentarios iniciales sobre los escenarios que se están discutiendo.

¡Todos son bienvenidos y alentados a atender!

Renueva mi Iglesia es una respuesta fiel al llamado de Cristo de renovar Su Iglesia en la Arquidiócesis de Chicago; es un viaje que es tanto espiritual (para reencontrar a Jesucristo como discípulos y comunidades parroquiales) como estructural (para asegurar que nuestras parroquias tengan los recursos adecuados para la vitalidad).

A través de las iniciativas de Renueva mi Iglesia, la Arquidiócesis volverá a comprometer a nuestra Iglesia local con nuestra comisión del evangelio para hacer discípulos, construir comunidades vitales de fe e inspirar testimonio para llevar la luz y la esperanza de Cristo a un mundo necesitado. Estos imperativos de misión guían todo lo que hacemos en y a través de los esfuerzos espirituales y estructurales de renovación.

Una iniciativa de Renueva mi Iglesia se centra en aumentar la vitalidad de nuestras comunidades locales. El cardenal Cupich ha pedido a nuestra parroquia que se una a las otras parroquias de nuestra agrupación para iniciar un proceso de reflexión, discernimiento y planificación para considerar cómo podemos colaborar y combinar recursos para estar mejor equipados para llevar a Jesucristo al mundo de hoy.

Nuestro recorrido ha sido colaborar con nuestros vecinos para:

- Evaluar la situación actual en nuestra comunidad,
- Comprender los criterios y principios de nuestros esfuerzos de planificación.
- Discutir posibles escenarios sobre cómo podrían estructurarse las parroquias de nuestra agrupación en el futuro, y
- Recopile nuestros comentarios para compartir con el liderazgo arquidiocesano y el cardenal Cupich

Sostengámonos unos a otros y a las otras comunidades de fe de la parroquia en nuestro grupo en oración al entrar en este tiempo de nueva dedicación a nuestra fe en Jesucristo y planificación para el futuro.

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Renew My Church: Parish Conversation to Discuss our Future

As Jesus Christ calls us to constantly renew His Church, we must be prepared to lend our voice and efforts to the possible ways in which we bring about that needed renewal. Included here is a summary of where we are today, but much more will be shared in our next parish meeting. Please come to learn more and share your feedback and input.



Process Overview

Renewal requires envisioning, planning, and new means to bring Jesus Christ to others. There are nearly 100 groupings of parishes and schools across the Archdiocese engaging in a process to address necessary questions of structure, how to work together across communities within each grouping, and to establish a strong foundation for vitality through focused evangelization and faith formation efforts. Supporting our parishes with the best structures enables us to breathe renewed life into our efforts to *make disciples, build communities, and inspire witness*.

Initial Scenarios

To initiate discussion, the Archdiocese has offered a set of initial scenarios that show potential models of how our parishes could be configured in the future. These initial scenarios have been developed accounting for data such as demographics, Mass attendance, financial and facility conditions. The scenarios reflect input from archdiocese staff, vicariate leaders, and local pastors.

These initial scenarios, which will be shared in detail at our next parish meeting, are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.** The Grouping Feedback & Discernment team may propose additional scenarios they believe merit discussion as long as they would be viable.

These scenarios will be evaluated against a set of criteria determined using data across the Archdiocese for how a structure would support vitality and ensure viability, such as:

Ministerial and spiritual needs of the parish: To enliven the work of evangelization, formation, worship, and pastoral care in today's time and culture, parishes ordinarily will build a strong staff team to support the pastor. Staff teams will be professionally trained and justly paid. To support this staffing and basic operations, such as paying utilities, parishes generally will need operating revenue of \$750,000 or more (excluding rental income).

Parishioner count and Mass attendance: Based on the number of pastors expected to be available across the Archdiocese in the future, a minimum of 800 parishioners attending weekend Mass is generally needed to be assigned a full-time, resident pastor. In addition, parishes need enough people power (i.e., parishioner count) to support vibrant ministries.

Pastoral manageability: It is critical that our structures support our pastors and pastoral teams to focus as much time and energy as possible on ministry. These structures need to be realistic to manage, considering potential travel between campuses, sacramental coverage, and administrative, facility, and ministerial needs.

Parish financial stability and facilities: Parish financial stability and adequate, accessible and safe facilities with capacity for growth and affordable ongoing repair/maintenance.

Note on Foundational Principles in relation to the challenges posed by COVID-19

The foundational principles written above remain the benchmarks against which to consider the viability of structural scenarios. Parish data will need to be compared against the foundational principles considering both pre-COVID data (i.e., Fiscal Year 2019 financials and October 2019 Mass attendance) and how COVID has impacted the financial sustainability of each parish and potential scenario. What is important is how those financial implications affect the future. Short-term financial challenges should not significantly influence decisions. However, where it is clear the effects will continue into the future, that reality will need to be included in evaluation of each scenario.

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Additional Information and Definitions for Reading the Initial Parish Scenarios:

The next page includes the initial scenarios for our grouping, which consists of:

St. Athanasius Parish
St. Joan of Arc Parish
St. Mary Parish
St. Nicholas Parish
Sheil Center Campus Ministry

The schools of St. Athanasius, The Academy of St. Joan of Arc, and Pope John XXIII are important Catholic education ministries in the grouping. However, school structures are not in the scope of this discernment process. Some parish scenarios may require discussion about school governance / relationship to parish, but no changes are proposed to school structures nor programs.

Key data points for each parish are listed on the final page of this document.

Reading the scenarios, it is important to distinguish between the words parish and church.

Parish = The People, Community, Organization

Church = Building; the sacred space in which we worship

A united parish has one pastor, budget, staff, Finance Council, etc. – but may have multiple churches. The assets of each parish uniting as one parish become the assets of the united parish.

A united parish may take the form of a new parish with a new name (Parish A and Parish B form New Parish C) or Parish B becoming part of Parish A. In either case, the church buildings retain their names. So Church B would still be Church B even if it becomes part of Parish A.

When a parish would have two churches, one of the churches would be designated as the parish church where the sacramental records would be kept.

As we review the scenarios, it is important for all us to do so prayerfully keeping in mind that the spiritual and structural renewal to which we are called to foster are connected. The best and most effective and efficient stewardship of our resources (structural renewal) can allow us to invest more into the ministries that directly work toward making disciples, building community and inspiring witness (spiritual renewal).

Just as Jesus asks us to pray always, He also invites us to trust always. Together, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to determine how Our Lord will use existing structures to create new ones that bring more people into relationship with Him.



Your input is needed

Again, these initial scenarios are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.** We are asked to provide feedback on the initial scenarios from the Archdiocese and propose alternative scenarios and configuration models.

Please come to our next parish meeting to learn more and share your feedback and input.

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Initial Parish Scenarios for Discernment

As noted on page 2, school structures / programs are not in scope of this discernment process. Some parish scenarios may necessitate discussion about school governance / relationship to parish, but no changes are proposed to school structures nor programs.

Parish scenario 1 – Sheil Center + 2 parishes

Sheil Center remains in its current structure as campus ministry with a full-time priest director.

Parish 1: St. Nicholas remains in its current parish structure.

Parish 2: St. Athanasius, St. Joan of Arc, and St. Mary unite as one parish at three sites, two sites, or one site.

Parish scenario 2 – Sheil Center + 2 parishes

Sheil Center remains in its current structure as campus ministry with a full-time priest director.

Parish 1: St. Mary + St. Nicholas unite as one parish at two sites.

Parish 2: St. Athanasius + St. Joan of Arc unite as one parish at two sites or one site.

Parish scenario 3 – 3 parishes, connecting Sheil campus ministry with a parish

Parish 1: St. Nicholas remains in its current parish structure.

Parish 2: St. Athanasius + St. Joan of Arc unite as one parish at two sites or one site.

Parish 3 + campus ministry: St. Mary + Sheil Center campus ministry unite as one with two locations in Evanston.

Priest staffing scenario 1: 1 priest leader with dual roles of Pastor + Director of Sheil Center

Priest staffing scenario 2: 2 priests; 1 pastor + separate priest Director of Sheil Center

Parish scenario 4 – 3 parishes, connecting Sheil campus ministry with a parish

Parish 1: St. Nicholas remains in its current parish structure.

Parish 2: St. Mary + St. Joan of Arc unite as one parish at two sites or one site.

Parish 3 + campus ministry: St. Athanasius + Sheil Center campus ministry unite as one with two locations in Evanston.

Priest staffing scenario 1: 1 priest leader with dual roles of Pastor + Director of Sheil Center

Priest staffing scenario 2: 2 priests; 1 pastor + separate priest Director of Sheil Center

See pages 4-5 for data about each parish.

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Average weekend Mass attendance (October Count)					
Year	St. Athanasius	St. Joan of Arc	St. Mary	St. Nicholas	Sheil Center
Oct. 2019	438	555	527	1,177	512
Oct. 2018	447	472	576	1,124	573
Oct. 2014 (5-yr)	630	528	706	1,040	619
Oct. 2009 (10-yr)	683	505	673	1,256	778
Oct. 1999 (20-yr)	865	582	954	1,048	968
% of parish's attendance by language (2019)	100% English	100% English	98% English 2% French Creole	53% English 47% Spanish	100% English
Church seating capacity	600	400	500	550	-
Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals (based on July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019)					
Baptisms <7 yrs old	24	9	18	76	-
Weddings	7	1	9	14	-
Funerals	14	14	14	36	-

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Finances (church only; no school financials included)				
FY19 income statement	St. Athanasius	St. Joan of Arc	St. Mary	St. Nicholas
Collections	\$592,383	\$368,065	\$400,155	\$817,864
Total operating revenue incl. collections, excl. rental	\$739,616	\$508,589	\$483,001	\$1,171,015
Additional rental income	\$16,000	\$15,000	\$286,978	-
Total operating revenue	\$755,616	\$523,589	\$769,979	\$1,171,015
Total operating expenses	\$709,042	\$472,392	\$935,603	\$1,143,392
Operating surplus / (deficit)	\$46,574	\$51,197	(\$165,624)	\$27,623
FY20 income statement	St. Athanasius	St. Joan of Arc	St. Mary	St. Nicholas
Collections	\$569,326	\$328,378	\$356,458	\$820,779
Total operating revenue incl. collections, excl. rental	\$718,862	\$430,553	\$420,186	\$1,158,465
Rental income	\$14,240	\$76,003	\$296,144	-
Total operating revenue	\$733,102	\$506,556	\$716,330	\$1,158,465
Total operating expenses	\$663,108	\$570,790	\$889,816	\$1,164,997
Operating surplus / (deficit)	\$69,994	(\$64,234)	(\$173,486)	(\$6,532)
Savings on deposit with archdiocesan bank (no parish has debt)				
Total savings	\$1,998,630	\$218,846	\$950,983	\$1,614,292

As a campus ministry, the Sheil Center reports to the archdiocese's Department of Parish Vitality and Mission (as do the other Newman Centers in the archdiocese), so the financials follow a different reporting structure than what parishes use. Thus, there is not an 'apples to apples' financial comparison to the parishes since it is not a parish and follows different financial reporting.

Sheil has operated without financial subsidy from the archdiocese, i.e., it has covered its expenses with donations at Mass from students and those who support Sheil's mission, continued alumni support, cultivated donor relationships, and some grants from outside sources.