

 Saint
Richard

RENEW MY CHURCH



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO 

A Weekly Update On Our Renew My Church Process

March 7, 2021

Creating vibrant parishes requires that we evaluate the business structures (how we operate), buildings, facilities, and financial requirements of existing parishes to assess where we can more prudently apply our resources to support and strengthen key ministry leadership roles, programs and activities.

Ultimately, we must be good stewards of the gifts we have today to ensure they're able to support the faith lives of Catholics both today and in the future. To that end, the Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team is meeting this Fall to discuss and prayerfully discern the ministerial and operational strengths and challenges of the parishes and schools within our particular grouping. Eventually the team will provide feedback and information about its grouping for archdiocesan leadership to review and present recommendations to Cardinal Cupich so he can make final decisions regarding potential changes to school and parish structures. Along the way there will be opportunities for everyone in our own parish to learn about the details of those conversations, ask questions, and share their own points of view on the strengths and concerns of any potential changes. As soon as we can schedule a parish conversation, which will most likely be held virtually, we will send out invitations. Here is the basic outline:

Grouping Sessions—Local parish and school leaders will meet over the next few months and:

- ◆ Discuss and pray about the strengths and challenges within each of our faith communities, review facts of our situation, and discern feedback on pros and cons of each possible scenario.
- ◆ Scenarios are possibilities regarding parish structures in the grouping, given our current realities, that will enable our mission imperatives of making disciples, building communities, and inspiring witness.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Incorporate feedback and insights heard in each parish.
- ◆ Submit a Feedback Summary Report to a Commission (comprised of Archdiocesan leadership), which makes a recommendation to Cardinal Cupich.

Parish Sessions— Parishioners gather with their Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team and:

- ◆ Are informed about what is being discussed and prayed about.
- ◆ Ask questions about the Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team's progress and process.
- ◆ Provide input to the team that informs the Feedback Summary Report for the Commission and Cardinal Cupich.