



Second Family

Dear Parish Family of St. Thomas,

Are you ready for an update on our "Renew My Church" endeavors? As you remember, our original proposal was sent back to us by the Archdiocesan "Renew My Church" Commission, and we were requested to re-convene our Parish Committees during the holidays.

In meetings with the Pastors of our group and the Archdiocese, St. Colette's decided to move to the Our Lady of Wayside group in Arlington Heights/Buffalo Grove which has yet to be activated. Our "Renew My Church" grouping of now the three Parishes met twice to look at more possible scenarios. On January 8, all three Parishes held a Town Hall meeting in their respective Parishes for input and feedback in the "new" scenario. We are grateful to the 86 Parishioners who were at our Town Hall. We have now presented the following proposal to the Archdiocese:

- *Misión San Juan Diego, St. Theresa and St. Thomas of Villanova, because of their size, will remain canonically independent.*
- *To strengthen Ministry, a deeper partnership will be explored between the Parishes to share Ministry facilities across the three Parishes.*
- *Misión San Juan Diego will maintain its identity as the Hispanic Ministry hub of the area.*
- *Each of the three Parishes in our grouping will work together to be partners in Ministry for the future in a more intentional way.*
- *In order to accommodate new Pastor changes at Misión San Juan Diego and St. Thomas of Villanova, conversations on the future of St. Theresa and St. Thomas of Villanova Schools will be delayed until October of 2020.*

This recommendation is fairly similar to the original recommendation offered in May of 2018, with the exception of St. Colette Parish no longer being part of our grouping, but the grouping team felt that since all three Parishes meet or exceed benchmarks for Mass attendance and operating revenue (most by a wide margin), that it was important that all three Parishes remain independent and allow for growth in the future—which is the ultimate goal of the Renew My Church process. We are currently awaiting Cardinal Cupich's final decision on our proposal scenario. I will keep you posted—we should hear the Cardinal's final decision soon.

January 22nd is the 46th Anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade court decision. And so in a special way, we mourn the many children's lives ended by abortion, and we pray for the parents. Our Knights of Columbus and our Respect Life Committee of the combined membership of St. Thomas of Villanova and St. Theresa Parishes this weekend sponsored a Candlelight Prayer Service at our 5:00pm Mass yesterday, Saturday, at both Parishes. The prayer service occurred at the end of the Mass and was in remembrance of the 105 babies aborted each day in the State of Illinois. May all people embrace the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift and is worth living!

Next week, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. It is a time to witness all of the great things happening at STV's Blue Ribbon School. We will also be seeking your generosity in a Second Collection to support our wonderful school.

Please be very cautious and alert about any emails you may be receiving from the Priests seeking iTunes cards! Delete them! They are a scam!

Your Pastor,
Father Tom