

## A Prayer For “Renew My Church”

*Lord Jesus, you speak to us today,  
as you spoke to holy men and women  
who have gone before us.*

*In every age and in our own time,  
you call to us and say: Renew My Church.*

*Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us,  
and so enable us*

- . to hear you clearly*
- . to listen to each other attentively*
- . to imagine our future boldly*
- . to discern your direction wisely*
- . to persevere in your holy will courageously*
- . to stay together in charity*
- . to surrender our own plans readily*
- . to embrace the greater good*
- . to hand on your gifts to future generations.*



*May we remain in the holy company of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints.  
May their example and presence inspire us  
with patient confidence in the work of your grace.*

*We ask this of you  
who live and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen*



Jesus Christ calls us to constantly renew His church. *Renew My Church* is the Archdiocese of Chicago's response to His call and our invitation for renewal.

### **We Need Your Input**

Below is a summary of where we are today, but much more will be shared in our next parish meeting on Monday, April 16 at 7pm—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. Each grouping will engage 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 our grouping a set of initial scenarios that show potential models of how parishes and schools could be configured in the future. These initial scenarios which will be shared in detail at our next parish meeting, are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.** These scenarios reflect our grouping's local realities using a set of criteria to evaluate how a structure would support vitality and ensure viability, such as:

- **Ministerial and spiritual needs of the parish:** To ensure quality resources for worship, pastoral care, religious education, and evangelization, parishes ordinarily will have a justly-paid, professionally-trained staff team. On average, a parish will need a minimum **operating revenue of \$500,000** (excluding rental income) to support staffing and other operating expenses. **Operating revenue of \$750,000 or more (excluding rental income) is strongly preferred** to invest in important ministry roles.
- **Parishioner count and Mass attendance:** Based on the projection of pastors available across the Archdiocese, parishes ordinarily need a **minimum of 800 parishioners** attending Mass each weekend to be assigned a full-time resident pastor, with consideration given to particular local and cultural circumstances; a **minimum of 1,200 parishioners attending weekend Mass for long-term vitality.**
- **Balanced workloads for priests:** It is critical that our pastors are supported with the resources and teams to support sacramental life, pastoral care, and parish administration.
- **Parish financial stability and facilities:** Parish financial stability and adequate, accessible and safe facilities with capacity for growth and ongoing repair/maintenance.
- **School vitality and financial stability:** A key measure is the **potential to enroll a minimum of 240 students in PK-8**, considering area demographics and parish student population; as well as ensuring quality education, strong student social development, and sustainable operations.

On the following page are the initial scenarios to begin the conversation for our grouping. Our grouping consists of St. Colette Parish and School, Misión San Juan Diego Parish, St. Theresa Parish and School, and St. Thomas of Villanova Parish and School.

There are two scenario considerations for how the parishes and schools could be organized differently from today—possibilities to bring together resources and leadership to enable new methods for carrying out our mission in the grouping.

# RENEW MY CHURCH UPDATE



Dear Parishioners of St. Colette, Misión San Juan Diego, St. Theresa and St. Thomas of Villanova,

On Monday, March 12th, our Renew My Church Grouping leadership met and was given two scenarios by the Archdiocese of Chicago to further our conversation as a group. We share these scenarios with you this weekend. It is very important to note a few realities:

These scenarios show potential models of how our parishes and schools could be configured in the future. These initial scenarios, which will be shared in detail at our next parish meeting, are conversation starters only.

## **NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE!**

The two initial scenarios are intended to spark conversation about how to most effectively minister to the entire grouping and how to provide an underlying structure to support that ministry.

Through the process, our grouping is encouraged to propose alternatives that could as effectively or more effectively support ministry in the grouping. Initial discussions about additional forms of collaboration may emerge as well.

It is important to note that any structural changes would be proposed to take effect July 1, 2019. No parish nor school changes would occur for the 2018-19 parochial and school year.

### **Initial Scenario 1**

- St. Colette and Misión San Juan Diego would join together at the St. Colette site. This united parish would sell the current Misión San Juan Diego property to re-invest in the space at the St. Colette campus.
- St. Theresa and St. Thomas of Villanova Parishes would remain in their current parish structures as canonically independent parishes with their own full-time resident pastors.
- St. Theresa School and St. Thomas of Villanova School would be able to continue in their current structures and programming. However, through the Renew My Church process, the leadership of both communities may certainly explore if there would be opportunities to strengthen Catholic education through any structural or programmatic changes.
- Tax Credit Scholarships are hoped to play a vital role in strengthening access to Catholic education and enrollment at St. Colette School. The archdiocese has made a commitment to the school for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years to allow time for efforts to increase enrollment. This scenario aims for St. Colette School to reach vital enrollment and financial stability to continue operating for the long-term.

### **Initial Scenario 2**

- All four parishes would remain as canonically independent parishes at their current sites.
- To strengthen ministry, St. Thomas of Villanova and Misión San Juan Diego would explore establishing a deeper partnership to use shared ministry facilities at the St. Thomas of Villanova campus. Misión San Juan Diego would continue to hold Mass at its current site.
- St. Theresa School and St. Thomas of Villanova School would be able to continue in their current structures and programming. However, through the Renew My Church process, the leadership of both communities may certainly explore if there would be opportunities to strengthen Catholic education through any structural or programmatic changes.
- If Tax Credit Scholarships do not have the hoped for impact on enrollment and financial stability at St. Colette School, the difficult decision may need to be made to close St. Colette School in the future. If this decision to close were to be made in the future, the grouping would be expected to work together to welcome as many St. Colette school students and families as possible to the other Catholic schools.

## **YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED — PLEASE COME TO OUR NEXT PARISH MEETING TO SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK AND INPUT.**

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 continue to pray for the success of the Renew My Church process, and may God bless you always.

Fr. Michal Lewon  
Pastor, St. Colette

Fr. Diego Berrio  
Pastor, Misión San Juan Diego

Fr. Tim Fairman  
Pastor, St. Theresa

Fr. Tom Rzepiela  
Pastor, St. Thomas of Villanova



St. Thomas of Villanova

Our Key Ministries and Events

***Our parish’s key ministries and events listed below exemplify how we live out the Mission of Jesus Christ at St. Thomas of Villanova:***

<b>Key Ministry or Event</b>	<b>Description of Impact on Community</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Liturgy – Primarily Masses, but also other Liturgical Events.	Creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere through liturgies that are relevant and relatable. A good liturgy includes thought provoking homily, music that inspires and reflects the message of the Mass; lectors and Eucharistic Ministers that display reverence for the Mass.	250 +: Clergy; servers; EMs; Lectors; Choir; Greeters
Religious Education (REC), VBS, GIFT, CLOW	The future of our parishes and the Church as a whole. Many families choose not to send their children to a Catholic School, and so this ministry is the only connection these children might have to a religious education. It attracts young families that might not otherwise have any relationship with a parish.	450 +
Ministry of Care (Outreach, PADS, Food Pantry)	Provides basic yet essential services. Help for the marginalized in our community. Could be a means for a person to be connected to a church who otherwise would not have that relationship. Demonstrates Catholic Values: “feed the hungry; cloth the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick and imprisoned.	200+
School	Our children, once again, are the future of our parish. Grow our children’s Catholic faith foundation. Great education in a Christian environment. Provides regular access to the sacraments. With diminishing affiliation from the Millennials, this ministry provides one means to ensure our Catholic Faith is sustained long term.	408
Bereavement / Smiling Through the Tears (STTT)	Provides practical, emotional and spiritual support to families during a time when they are very vulnerable. STTT provides an on-going support group for those that have lost a loved one.	100 +
Voices (Youth Ministry)	Preparing youth to be leaders within the parish community. Installs a sense of community, a connectiveness, that will hopefully translate into active parishioners in the future. Again, another opportunity to provide the Millennials with a forum to base their belief structure on.	50 +
Adult Faith Formation/ Bible Study	Provides adult continuing education. Provides challenging content as a means to learn about our Bible in a more in depth environment. Draws participants from outside the parish boundaries.	150 +
Right to Life and Knights of Columbus (Ultra Sound; ID Drive; Scholarships for Youth & Seminarians)	Provides a voice for basic Catholic tenants of life (from conception to death). Provides resources for the local needy community. Also, strongly demonstrates that two parishes can come together to support a single ministry.	400+
RCIA	Initiating adults/older youth into the Catholic church. This group tends to become active participants in the parish. Potential future ministry leaders within the parish.	25 +