

Dear Parishioners,

After seven meetings of the Palmeadow Heights Grouping Team for Renew My Church, our work, for the moment, has concluded. Below please see three scenarios: the first two, which came from the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the third scenario, which was created by our Renew My Church grouping team. These scenarios will next be submitted to the Archdiocese of Chicago Renew My Church team and if approved, move on the Presbyteral Council for their approval and then to Cardinal Cupich for his final endorsement or rejection of our scenarios. While there is no specific timeline for this process, it is expected that we should know the Cardinal's final decision this Fall.

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.

Alternate Scenario 3

- All four parishes would remain as canonically independent parishes at their current sites.
- To strengthen ministry, St. Thomas of Villanova, St. Theresa, and Misión San Juan Diego would explore establishing a deeper partnership to use shared ministry facilities at the St. Thomas of Villanova and St. Theresa campuses. Misión San Juan Diego would continue to hold Mass at its current site.
- The grouping would combine St. Theresa School, St. Thomas of Villanova School, and St. Colette School into one multi-site school, to be implemented by the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Misión San Juan Diego would become the Hispanic ministry hub for the area. This would serve as a seed for Vicariate wide assessment of Hispanic ministries needs
- The PalMeadow Heights team would actively uphold a strong commitment to work in partnership in the various ministries surrounding each parish's unique locations and situation in the following areas: sacramental, pastoral, evangelical, financial, educational, and formational.



It is the preference of the grouping team that **Scenario # 3** be approved by Cardinal Cupich. This was arrived at by the team after much prayer and conversation, and as such, the recommendation is final. Thank you for your support in this process. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide this process as it ultimately moves on to Cardinal Cupich.

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