

Renew My Church An Archdiocesan-Wide Initiative for Revitalization and Growth

Jesus Christ calls us to constantly renew His Church. *Renew My Church* is the Archdiocese of Chicago’s response to His call and our personal invitation for renewal. Addressing current challenges, needs and opportunities in today’s society, including a trending crisis of faith, *Renew My Church* will bring new and sustainable life to our local Church through three mission imperatives: making disciples, building communities and inspiring witness.

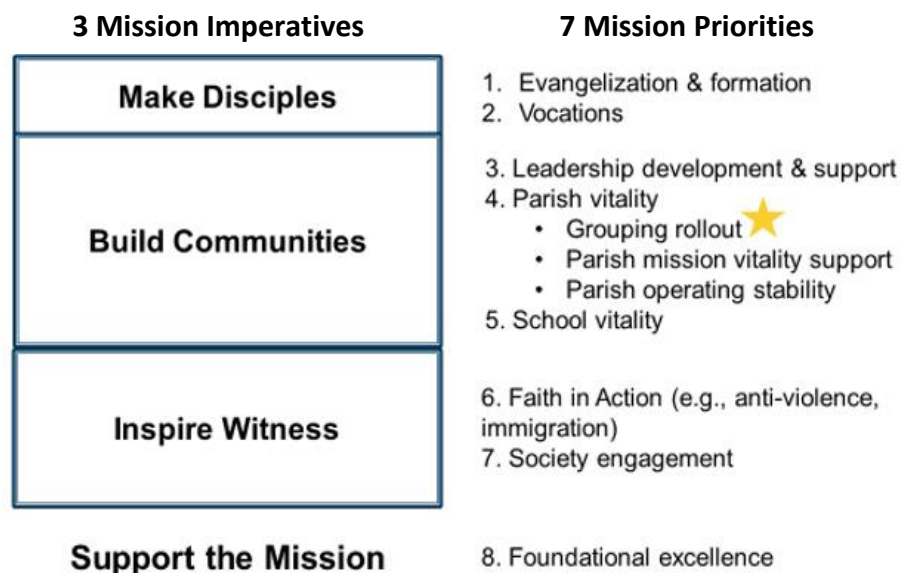
Making Disciples - Jesus calls us to grow in our own discipleship and go out to make new disciples. As baptized Catholics, it is our responsibility to act on His call. *Renew My Church* efforts will support us in renewed ways to grow in our own relationship with Jesus and to evangelize and form new and existing Catholics in faith, especially the young, and increase vocations.

Building Communities - We will revitalize our parishes and schools alike, increasing vibrancy and fortifying bonds with each other, drawing us and others to active participation in His Church.

Inspiring Witness - In this renewal, our Lord asks us to come together in solidarity and spread the light and hope of Jesus Christ in order to transform the world. Together, we will find new ways to serve the needs of the people on the margins of society: the poor, the hungry, and the outcast.

HOW WILL THE ARCHDIOCESE RENEW?

Through a multitude of *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 Christ to a world in need.



Your grouping is currently engaged in the “grouping rollout” that begins to address parish vitality and support renewed ways to build communities across the archdiocese.

What is the goal of a grouping?

The goal of a grouping of parishes and schools is to realize the vision of *Renew My Church* by building a renewed, vital, and sustainable Catholic presence for the good of all people in the collective communities within the grouping. To do so, a grouping must start by answering these questions:

- How can we be more effective through collaboration?
- Given resource realities, what do we need to change so we are better together?

Your grouping has begun this journey of discussing and discerning feedback on collaboration and structural scenarios that are viable and sustainable to renew the Church given today's realities.

What are Scenarios?

Scenarios = Possibilities regarding new parish and school structures in the grouping that enables the vision.

Includes:

Status of the parishes

- Ex. 1: Remain as is with no structural changes
 - Ex. 2: Join together with another parish and all church buildings remain open
 - Ex 3.: Join together with another parish and some church buildings close
 - Ex. 4: Something that the grouping develops
- **Parish leadership** (i.e., full-time resident pastor, shared pastor)
 - **School status** (i.e., remain open, close, merge with another school)

Who decides what is the best scenario?

It is the Cardinal's decision, yet he has invited your grouping into this discernment and decision planning process to share insights from your local experience and give him vital feedback before he decides.

How does the Cardinal get our feedback?

Two types of meetings produce feedback to the Cardinal:

Grouping Sessions - Local parish and school leaders meet over the next 3-4 months and:

- Discerns scenario feedback by discussing operational and ministerial strengths and challenges in each of your parishes and schools based on current realities and your local experiences in your community
- Incorporates feedback or insights heard at the parishes
- Submits a Feedback Summary Report to the Commission who makes a recommendation to the Cardinal

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

- Are informed about what is being discussed
- 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