



Renew My Church: Palatine Heights Grouping Update **January 18, 2019**

The Renew My Church 'Palatine Heights' grouping includes Misión San Juan Diego, St. Theresa, and St. Thomas of Villanova.

Discernment Process

The grouping began as the 'PalMeadow Heights' grouping with Misión San Juan Diego, St. Theresa, St. Thomas of Villanova, and St. Colette. When reviewing the recommendation for the original grouping in November 2018, the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council raised questions that required additional discussion and discernment.

Based on further consultation with the parish pastors and administrators of the grouping, Bishop Alberto Rojas decided that it is best for St. Colette Parish to join a separate grouping that includes Our Lady of the Wayside Parish, St. James Parish, and St. Edna Parish in Arlington Heights, as well as St. Mary Parish in Buffalo Grove. That grouping will engage in the discernment process at a future time.

With the grouping now formed by Misión San Juan Diego, St. Theresa, and St. Thomas of Villanova, the grouping team leaders met twice and held a town hall at each parish to review and respond to the original questions raised by the Presbyteral Council in November.

Decision

Over the course of the past several weeks, Cardinal Cupich, Bishop Alberto Rojas, and the Archdiocese's Presbyteral Council met to discuss the additional input gathered during the extended period of discernment. Based upon those discussions and prayerful consideration, a final decision was made regarding the parish structures.

- Misión San Juan Diego, St. Theresa, and St. Thomas of Villanova will each continue in their current canonical structures.
- As expressed by the grouping's leadership as an important step moving forward, the parishes will explore continued space sharing and enhanced collaboration.
- Cardinal Cupich has asked that the parish pastors submit a report by July 2020 detailing the progress they have made on collaboration, including space sharing, and the challenges they still face at that time as a group and as individual parishes.

As previously communicated in September 2018 by the pastors of the grouping, with regards to schools, it was determined that the schools be given a period of two years – subject to hitting certain minimum benchmarks – to pursue independent plans for growth and vitality after which the schools will come together again (in October 2020) to discuss the best way forward. In 2020, the new process to determine a way forward for schools would allow ample time for the communities of all of the parishes to provide input. As always, the goal of any future discussions of our schools is to make sure we provide a strong and sustainable Catholic education option for our collective communities.

Next Steps

As St. Thomas of Villanova and Misión San Juan Diego will each have an open pastorate and be in the pool for pastor assignments effective July 1, 2019, the Archdiocese's Priest Placement Board will work with each community to identify the gifts and characteristics needed for the pastor of each parish. A consultation meeting involving parishioners will be held at each parish. St. Thomas of Villanova's consultation will be on February 5. Misión San Juan Diego's consultation will be February 7. More details about these meetings will be shared through each parish soon.

Moving into the coming months, all parishes of the grouping will embark upon the next phase of the renewal process to become a stronger, more sustainable presence for the future capable of reaching more people in their work of making disciples of Jesus Christ.