



Wrigley Field Renew My Church Update: January 22, 2021

Discernment Process

St. Andrew, St. Benedict, St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes engaged in the Renew My Church (RMC) discernment process through the fall of 2020. The Grouping Feedback and Discernment team (GFDT), which was made up of members from each parish community, met to review and discern the future parish structure for the area. Our deepest appreciation goes to the GFDT who prayerfully discerned the parish grouping structure during this challenging time.

Based on their meetings and feedback gathered from the larger parish communities, they submitted feedback to the archdiocese. The Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, which includes representatives from across the Archdiocese of Chicago, reviewed the feedback and other information, including financial summaries, capital needs and parish trends.

Cardinal Cupich and Bishop Bartosic are grateful to Fr. Romo, Fr. Kanonik, Fr. Dorantes, Fr. Shanahan and the Grouping Teams who gathered throughout the past few months, and all parishioners who offered feedback through the recent discernment process.

Outcome

In the past few weeks, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, the archdiocese's auxiliary bishops, and the archdiocese's Presbyteral Council met to discuss the Commission's recommendation. Based upon those discussions and prayerful consideration, Cardinal Cupich made the following decisions regarding the parish structure in the Wrigley Field grouping.

- **Effective July 1, 2021, St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes will unite to form a new parish called St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish with one pastor and pastoral team. Fr. Dorantes will serve as pastor of the united parish.**
- **St. Mary of the Lake will serve as the main ministry center of the parish.**
- **As the new parish begins on July 1, both St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches will be used for Masses.** The specific schedule of Masses at each campus after July 1 will be discussed by parish leadership in the coming months.
- **The future of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and campus will be reviewed on an annual basis,** with a particular focus on supporting the pastoral presence and importance of the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, while also balancing what is financially sustainable.
- **The Our Lady of Lourdes school building on the east side of Ashland will be listed for sale as soon as possible,** to generate proceeds to enhance ministry in the new parish.

St. Andrew and St. Benedict will remain separate parishes while establishing a covenant for ministry between the two parishes, with particular emphasis on spiritual renewal and the Five Strategies of Building the New Reality, namely:

1. Creating and promoting new **entry points** into parish life for those seeking answers, a sense of belonging and an initial encounter with God and the joy of our community.
2. Committing to create a culture of **radical hospitality** within a spiritual family that will be powerful for us as believers and encouraging to those who are seeking, lost or alone.
3. Ensuring **Eucharistic liturgies are vibrant and transformative** to lift up our hearts and souls to celebrate the Good News and keep our eyes focused on Christ present among us.
4. **Reimagining faith formation to become readiness-based, rather than simply age-based,** with programs and family catechesis that are holistic and oriented on unifying families in faith.
5. Committing to new avenues of **pastoral care that focuses outward in love** to share our faith and serve those in need both near and far.

An annual review of the relationship and sustainability of the individual parishes will take place between parish leadership and the Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate II.



Parish Structure Rationale

- Uniting St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes connects the two parishes with Hispanic ministry, enabling future planning to serve the needs of Hispanic ministry in the area.
- Annual evaluation of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and campus, within the context of what a united parish will need for ministry and facilities, will help evaluate how best to steward parish resources, including proceeds from the sale of the Our Lady of Lourdes school building.
- Maintaining St. Andrew and St. Benedict as separate parishes avoids overwhelming a pastor with two large school communities while they are continuing with the hard work of Building the New Reality.
 - Establishing a covenant and an annual review process ensures the communities continue to make disciples, build communities and inspire witness.

Next Steps

The united parish community of St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes, as well as St. Andrew and St. Benedict, will embark upon the next phase of renewal, focusing on strong evangelization to the world around us. The renewal process calls us to become a stronger, more sustainable presence for the future, capable of reaching more people in their work of making disciples of Jesus Christ, building communities with one another and inspiring witness in the world around us.