



Renew My Church: Parish Conversation to Discuss our Future

As Jesus Christ calls us to constantly renew His Church, we must be prepared to lend our voice and efforts to the possible ways in which we bring about that needed renewal. Included here is a summary of where we are today, but much more will be shared in our next parish meeting on **October 21 after the 9:45 Mass** – 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 engaging 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 a set of initial scenarios that show potential models of how our parishes could be configured in the future. These initial scenarios have been developed accounting for data such as demographics, Mass attendance, financial and facility conditions. The scenarios reflect input from archdiocese staff, vicariate leaders, and local pastors.

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 will be evaluated against a set of criteria determined using data across the Archdiocese for how a structure would support vitality and ensure viability, such as:

- **Ministerial and spiritual needs of the parish:** To enliven the work of evangelization, formation, worship, and pastoral care in today's time and culture, parishes ordinarily will build a strong a staff team to support the pastor. Staff teams will be professionally trained and justly paid. To support this staffing and basic operations, such as paying utilities, parishes generally will need operating revenue of \$750,000 or more (excluding rental income).
- **Parishioner count and Mass attendance:** Based on the number of pastors expected to be available across the Archdiocese in the future, a minimum of 800 parishioners attending weekend Mass is needed to be assigned a full-time, resident pastor.
- **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.

Initial Scenarios for Discernment

Below are the initial scenarios for our grouping, which consists of Holy Family Parish, Notre Dame de Chicago Parish, the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, and St. John Paul II Newman Center at UIC.

There are six initial scenarios for how the parishes and institutions 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. The scenarios refer to a combined canonical parish: a model in which two or more current parishes become one parish – with one pastor, budget, staff, Finance Council, etc. – but that can have multiple active churches.

As we review the scenarios, it is important for all us to do so prayerfully keeping in mind that the spiritual and structural renewal to which we are called to foster are connected. This structural renewal can allow us to invest more into spiritual renewal.

Scenario A

- Each of the parishes and institutions would remain as is, following a pastoral plan implemented and mutually supported by the four institutions.

Scenario B-1:

- Holy Family and Notre Dame would unite to form one new canonical parish under one pastor and staff team. Both churches would remain as active worship sites of the new parish.
- The Shrine and Newman Center would remain in their current structures.

Scenario B-2:

- Holy Family and Notre Dame would unite as in Scenario B-1.
- Notre Dame de Chicago Church would serve as the church for the new parish.
- Holy Family Church would no longer be used regularly by the parish.
- The Shrine and Newman Center would remain in their current structures.

Scenario B-3:

- Holy Family and Notre Dame would unite as in Scenario B-1.
- Holy Family Church would serve as the church for the new parish.
- Notre Dame de Chicago Church would no longer be used regularly by the parish.
- The Shrine and Newman Center would remain in their current structures.

Scenario B-4:

- The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and the St. John Paul II Newman Center would share one priest as pastor and chaplain.
- Notre Dame and Holy Family would remain in their current canonical structures.

Scenario C:

- Holy Family Parish and the St. John Paul II Newman Center would share one priest to serve as both pastor of the parish and chaplain of the Newman Center.
- Notre Dame and the Shrine would remain in their current canonical structures.

These initial scenarios presume each institution would be able to fund its necessary capital repairs and regular operating costs.

Your input is needed - 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 come to our next parish meeting on **October 21 after Mass to learn more and share your feedback and input.**