

## **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 **August 20, 2019 at 7 pm** in the church; 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, church buildings, and schools 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 initial scenarios have also considered input from archdiocese staff, vicariate leaders, and local pastors, as well as initial reactions from the Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team. This does not mean there is consensus from those groups of people about the viability of all of these initial scenarios. The Renew My Church planning staff has chosen to include all possible scenarios voiced to this point in the process to allow discernment on all possibilities. Our Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team members will bring your parishioner input back to the grouping-level discussions.

Again, 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 generally needed to be assigned a full-time, resident pastor.
- **Pastoral manageability:** It is critical that our structures support our pastors and pastoral teams to focus as much time and energy as possible on ministry. These structures need to be realistic to manage, considering potential travel between campuses, sacramental coverage, and administrative, facility, and ministerial needs.
- **Parish financial stability and facilities:** Parish financial stability and adequate, accessible and safe facilities with capacity for growth and affordable ongoing repair/maintenance.
- **School quality and financial stability:** A Catholic school should be best positioned to provide the very highest quality of faith formation and academic quality in a manner that is financially sustainable. A key measure is the **potential to enroll a minimum of 240 students in PK-8**, considering area demographics and parish student population.



### Notes for reading and processing the initial scenarios:

On pages 3 and 4 are the initial scenarios for our grouping. Our grouping consists of;

- St. Alphonsus Parish
- St. Patrick Parish
- St. Alphonsus / St. Patrick School
- Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish and School
- St. James at Sag Bridge Parish.
- The Slovenian Mission and Polish Mission are connected to our grouping's conversations for future ministerial collaboration, but they are not directly involved in the structural scenarios except for one consideration offered by the Slovenian Mission.

### Some definitions

Reading the scenarios, it is important to distinguish between the word parish and the word church.

Parish = The People, Community, Organization

Church = Building; the sacred space in which we worship

A united parish has one pastor, budget, staff, Finance Council, etc. – but may have multiple churches. A united parish often takes on a new name, though the church buildings retain the titles given to them at their dedication.

### A note on schools

For schools, the archdiocese has set an additional expectation that 1 parish should have 1 school program, though the school program may operate on multiple campuses if it makes sense for the program to have lower grades at one campus and upper grades at a different campus.

### An encouragement when reviewing these initial scenarios

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. The best and most effective and efficient stewardship of our resources (structural renewal) can allow us to invest more into the ministries that directly work toward making disciples, building community and inspiring witness (spiritual renewal).

Just as Jesus asks us to pray always, He also invites us to trust always. Together, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to determine how Our Lord will use existing structures to create new ones that bring more people into relationship with Him.



### 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.



### **Initial Parish and Church Scenarios**

These initial scenarios are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.** Many of these scenarios will be challenging to review as they include significant potential changes. In visioning and discerning for the future, we are asked to provide feedback on these initial scenarios and propose alternative scenarios and configuration models. Schools are addressed on page 4.

#### **3 parish scenario:**

Parish 1: St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick unite as one parish.

- 2 possible church configurations: (1) Both churches remain open. (2) St. Patrick Church closes.

Parish 2: Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish remains in its current parish structure.

Parish 3: St. James at Sag Bridge remains in its current parish structure.

#### **2 parish scenarios (4 potential forms of parish unification):**

Note that in these parish configurations, it is possible that one of the current parishes could be a 'mission' church of the other parish under the configuration.

##### **Parish Configuration 1:**

- Parish 1: St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick unite as one parish.
  - o 2 possible church configurations: (1) Both churches remain open. (2) St. Patrick Church closes.
- Parish 2: Ss. Cyril & Methodius and St. James at Sag Bridge unite as one parish.
  - o 2 possible church configurations: (1) Both churches remain open. (2) St. James Church closes.

##### **Parish Configuration 2:**

- Parish 1: Ss. Cyril & Methodius remains in its current parish structure.
- Parish 2: St. Alphonsus, St. James, and St. Patrick all unite as one parish.
  - o 3 possible church configurations:
    - All 3 churches remain open.
    - St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick Churches remain open. St. James Church closes.
    - St. Alphonsus and St. James Churches remain open. St. Patrick Church closes.

##### **Parish Configuration 3:**

- Parish 1: St. Alphonsus remains in its current parish structure.
- Parish 2: Ss. Cyril & Methodius, St. James, and St. Patrick all unite as one parish.
  - o 3 possible church configurations:
    - All 3 churches remain open.
    - Ss. Cyril & Methodius and St. Patrick Churches remain open. St. James Church closes.
    - Ss. Cyril & Methodius and St. James Churches remain open. St. Patrick Church closes.

##### **Parish Configuration 4:**

- Parish 1: St. James at Sag Bridge remains in its current parish structure.
- Parish 2: St. Alphonsus, Ss. Cyril & Methodius, and St. Patrick all unite as one parish.
  - o 3 possible church configurations:
    - All 3 churches remain open.
    - Ss. Cyril & Methodius and St. Patrick Churches remain open. St. Alphonsus Church closes.
    - St. Alphonsus and Ss. Cyril & Methodius Churches remain open. St. Patrick Church closes.

#### **1 parish scenarios:** All 4 current parishes unite as one parish.

- *Church Configuration 1:* Continue using all 4 churches.
- *Church Configuration 2:* 3 churches remain open. St. Alphonsus Church closes.
- *Church Configuration 3:* 3 churches remain open. St. James Church closes.
- *Church Configuration 4:* 3 churches remain open. St. Patrick Church closes.
- *Church Configuration 5:* 2 churches remain open. St. James and St. Patrick Churches both close.
- *Church Configuration 6:* Build a new church on the campus of the Slovenian Mission and move all liturgies to this location.

Some members of the Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team raised the question if a 4-parish scenario (i.e., parishes remain as they are) could be considered. Given the shortage of priests available to serve as pastors across the archdiocese, the archdiocese has indicated a 4-parish scenario is not a viable option.

**Initial School Scenarios:**

These initial scenarios are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.** We are asked to provide feedback on the initial scenarios and propose alternative scenarios and configuration models.

**A note on schools (repeated from page 2)**

For schools, the archdiocese has set an additional expectation that 1 parish should have 1 school program, though the school program may operate on multiple campuses if it makes sense for the program to have lower grades at one campus and upper grades at a different campus.

**School Scenario 1:** 1 school program, 1 school campus at St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick campus. St. Cyril's campus could be the central location for Religious Education in this scenario.

**School Scenario 2:** 1 school program, 1 campus at St. Cyril's campus.

**School Scenario 3:** 1 school program, 2 campuses with lower grades at one campus and upper grades at the other campus.

A key question to consider for this scenario is if there would be enough children to utilize the space of both campuses in a lower grade campus / separate upper grade campus model.

**School Scenario 4:** Continue 2 school programs

This scenario applies for parish scenarios in which Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish is not part of the same parish scenario as St. Alphonsus Parish nor St. Patrick Parish.

Please note the archdiocese has significant reservations about the viability of continuing 2 school programs based on available school-aged population, enrollment trends, and the viability of continuous fundraising each year to meet financial obligations.

**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 August 20, 2019 at 7 pm in the church, to learn more and share your feedback and input.**