



Chatham-Park Manor Renew My Church Update: January 21, 2021

Discernment Process

St. Clotilde, St. Columbanus and St. Dorothy 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 and parish trends.

Cardinal Cupich and Bishop Perry are grateful to Fr. Atoyebi, Fr. O'Donnell, Fr. Miller 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 Chatham-Park Manor.

- **Effective July 1, 2021, the three parishes of St. Clotilde, St. Columbanus and St. Dorothy will unite as a new parish, with a new name, one pastor and pastoral team.**
- **St. Columbanus will serve as the parish church.**
 - The specific timeline to fully transition Masses to St. Columbanus will be determined by parish leadership in the coming months.
- **Fr. Matt O'Donnell will serve as pastor of the newly united parish.**
- **There are no changes to Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy.**

Parish Structure Rationale

- The grouping team concluded that the community will best be served by bringing worship together in one site.
- Pros and cons were weighed regarding the best site, however a consensus could not be reached by the grouping team.
- Considerations for the site included geographic presence and how well suited each space is for continued and enhanced ministry.
- In reviewing the feedback and all data available, the commission felt St. Columbanus would be the best site because St. Columbanus has an established food pantry, a gym that is used for community engagement and a strong school ministry tied to that space.

Next Steps

Parish leadership and parishioners will discern possibilities for the name of the new parish, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit their considerations to Cardinal Cupich for his decision on the permanent name of the new parish.

The united parish community 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.