



## **Kedzie-Elston Corridor Renew My Church Update: January 23, 2021**

### **Discernment Process**

St. Edward, Resurrection, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Our Lady of Mercy 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. Clemente, Fr. Heneghan, Fr. Desmond and the Grouping Teams who gathered throughout the past few months, and all parishioners who offered feedback through the recent discernment process.

### **Status**

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 discernment. Rather than making a final decision, additional discernment and prayerful consideration is needed. However, we can confirm that Cardinal Cupich endorses the direction for the grouping to move forward as two parishes.

- **Bishop Bartosic will continue to work with the grouping between now and April 15 to confirm the most fruitful structure for the grouping as two parishes.**
- **As envisioned in the scenarios discussed this Fall, St. Edward and Our Lady of Mercy will each remain the main site of one of the two resulting parishes.**
- **Fr. Dominic Clemente, pastor of St. Edward, and Fr. Nicholas Desmond, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, will remain in their roles.**
- **St. Edward School will continue with no changes.**
- **Continuing discernment will evaluate what is the most fruitful and realistic future of Immaculate Heart of Mary and Resurrection campuses. No decisions have been made at this time about either church and campus, however, it is likely that either one or both will discontinue being used as worship sites once the final decision is made.**
- **In addition to the churches, part of the ongoing discernment will be the best formal union for IHM Parish – whether the parish should unite fully with St. Edward, with Our Lady of Mercy, or be connected to both St. Edward and Our Lady of Mercy in such a way that the people and assets are formally distributed between both.**
- **Pastorally and organizationally, Resurrection will fully unite to Our Lady of Mercy as of July 1, 2021.**