



Logan Square-Avondale Renew My Church Update: January 20, 2021

Discernment Process

St. Hyacinth Basilica, Our Lady of Grace and St. Sylvester 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, 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 Lombardo are grateful to Fr. Baldeon Lope, Fr. Jankowski, Fr. Mukundi 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 Logan Square-Avondale:

- **St. Hyacinth Basilica will remain in its current structure and continue under the leadership of the Resurrectionist Fathers.**
- **Effective July 1, 2021, Our Lady of Grace and St Sylvester will unite as a new parish, continuing to use both churches for Mass.**
 - **As one parish, the two communities will have one pastor and one pastoral team.** Fr. Samson Mukundi will be pastor of the united parish.
 - **The united parish will receive a new name. The local community will discern possibilities for the new name, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich. Until Cardinal Cupich decides on a permanent name for the new parish, the new parish will have an interim name – Our Lady of Grace and St. Sylvester Parish.**
 - St. Sylvester will be the parish church where all sacramental records are kept.
 - The Mass schedule at each worship site will be reviewed by the pastor in consultation with parish leadership between now and July 1. It may differ from the current schedule.
 - Similar demographics in this new parish provide rich opportunity for a united effort in the work of evangelization.
 - During the discernment process, concerns were raised regarding financial stability and the ability to sustain two campuses. To address these concerns, the RMC Commission asks the united parish's leadership to conduct an annual review of the sustainability of two campuses, beginning in 2023. This allows the next two years to focus on unification and renewal.
- **Our Lady of Grace School and St. Sylvester School will continue to operate under their current programs.**



Next Steps

St. Hyacinth Basilica and the united parish formed by Our Lady of Grace and St. Sylvester 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.