

**Oak Lawn, Bridgeview, Burbank Renew My Church Update: January 22, 2021****Discernment Process**

St. Albert the Great, St. Fabian, St. Gerald and St. Louis de Montfort 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 Wypych are grateful to Fr. Nawalaniec, Fr. Warmuz, Fr. Pajor, Fr. Stuglik 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 Oak Lawn, Bridgeview and Burbank.

- Effective July 1, 2021, St. Louis de Montfort will close as a separately organized parish and the faithful of the parish are invited to join any of the neighboring parishes.
  - The patrimony (financial assets and physical property) of St. Louis de Montfort will be shared equally among St. Albert the Great, St. Fabian and St. Gerald.
  - St. Gerald will manage the campus and lead the process for deciding the future of the campus.
- Other than these changes, St. Albert the Great, St. Fabian and St. Gerald parishes will remain in their current structure, including pastoral leadership of Fr. Nawalaniec, Fr. Warmuz and Fr. Pajor.
- The Commission recommends St. Louis de Montfort draws down its ministry by June 30, 2021, including a final regularly scheduled Mass.
- The current parish schools (St. Albert the Great and St. Gerald) will remain in their current status and configurations.
- The need to increase Hispanic ministry arose throughout the process. The Archdiocese's Priest Placement Board will be asked to consider recommending an associate pastor who can support these needs within the grouping.

**Parish Structure Rationale**

- Through the discernment process, it became clear that sustaining the financial needs of the St. Louis de Montfort campus would not be possible.
- Based on the feedback heard by the Commission, dividing St. Louis de Montfort equally among the remaining parishes is most likely to align with where parishioners will go.
- The Commission is confident the resulting structure will provide strong ministry in this community, leading to vitality and stability in the three remaining parishes.



## **Next Steps**

The parish communities 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.