



SW CHOP Renew My Church Update: January 22, 2021

Discernment Process

St. Linus, St. Patricia, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of the Ridge 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. Walter, Fr. Svida, Fr. Pasciak, Fr. Wrona 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 the Southwest Suburbs of Chicago Ridge, Hickory Hills, Oak Lawn and Palos Hills.

- **St Patricia and Sacred Heart will each remain in their current structures.**
 - Fr. Jacek Wrona will continue as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish.
 - With Fr. Marc Pasciak retiring June 30, 2021, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Priests' Placement Board will conduct a consultation with St. Patricia staff and parish leadership about the qualities needed in the parish's next pastor. All parishioners will also have the opportunity to submit feedback in writing. The Placement Board seeks to recommend a pastor candidate to Cardinal Cupich no later than mid-March. A candidate may be identified and named by Cardinal Cupich sooner than that time.
- **Effective July 1, 2021, Our Lady of the Ridge and St. Linus 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. The Archdiocese of Chicago's Priests' Placement Board will conduct a consultation with the staff and parish leadership of the uniting parishes about the qualities needed in the pastor of the new parish. All parishioners will also have the opportunity to submit feedback in writing. The Placement Board seeks to recommend a pastor candidate to Cardinal Cupich no later than mid-March. A candidate may be identified and named by Cardinal Cupich sooner than that time.
 - 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 the Ridge and St. Linus Parish.
 - St. Linus School will be the united parish's school. The school will retain the name St. Linus School.
 - The Mass schedule at each worship site will be reviewed by the pastor in consultation with parish leadership between now and July 1. The Mass schedule after July 1 may differ from the current schedule.



Parish Structure Rationale

During the discernment process the GFDT expressed a preference for each parish to remain in its current structure, however there was also concern about the need to review the structure again in the near future if downward trends continue. While the RMC Commission and Cardinal Cupich are encouraged by the feedback from the GFDT, as well as the work begun by the Missionary Discipleship and Evangelization Teams at Our Lady of the Ridge, they believe it is better to make the decision now to unite Our Lady of the Ridge and St. Linus rather than continuing to question whether structural changes will be needed in the future.

Additionally, uniting the parishes now allows them to share their talents and resources, as well as work on evangelization, confident in their future structure.

Based on the geographic coverage and size of Sacred Heart and St. Patricia, the RMC Commission, Bishop Wypych, and Cardinal Cupich are confident in each continuing in its current structure. Sacred Heart, St. Patricia, and a united Our Lady of the Ridge and St. Linus are encouraged to continue working together on a broader scale, leveraging the gifts, talents and conversations brought forward during the discernment process. Just as renewal is ongoing, so must the parishes continue to support each other.

Next Steps

St. Patricia, Sacred Heart, and the united Our Lady of the Ridge and St. Linus Parish will each 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.