



Greater Ashburn Renew My Church Update: May 10, 2021

Discernment Process

St. Bede the Venerable, St. Denis and St. Thomas More Parishes engaged in the Renew My Church (RMC) review and discernment process over the past few months. The Grouping Feedback and Discernment team (GFDT), which was made up of members from each 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 of the pandemic.

Based on their meetings and feedback gathered from the larger parish community, 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. Bermudez, Fr. Ostrowski, Msgr. Zborowski and the Grouping Team 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 Greater Ashburn.

- **Effective July 1, 2021, St. Bede the Venerable and St. Denis will unite as a new parish with two worship sites, a new name, one pastor and one pastoral team.**
 - St. Bede the Venerable and St. Denis will both be worship sites for the newly formed parish.
 - St. Bede the Venerable will be designated the parish church where the united parish's sacramental records are kept.
 - Mass schedules at the newly united parish will be determined by the pastor in consultation with parish leadership and may differ from the current schedules.
 - 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.
 - Fr. Carlos Arancibia will serve as the new pastor and an associate pastor will be named to serve this newly united parish.
 - St. Bede the Venerable School will continue as the parish school without any structural changes.

- **Effective July 1, 2021, St. Thomas More will become a canonical mission, connected to the newly formed parish of St. Bede and St. Denis.**
 - The mission will specifically serve the African, African-American, Anglo and Hispanic communities of the neighborhood.
 - The Latin Mass worshipping community is invited to join the community of St. Cyril Methodius Parish and St. James Mission on Sag Bridge in Lemont
 - A full-time Director of the Mission or Rector will be named within the next few weeks and he will work in collaboration with Fr. Carlos Arancibia.



Parish Structure Rationale

- Uniting St. Bede the Venerable and St. Denis provides the financial and operational support necessary to enhance and expand ministry at the newly united parish as well as increase outreach to the neighborhood.
- As a united parish, the St. Bede the Venerable School and united religious education ministry continues to form our children as young disciples for the future.
- St. Thomas More will serve as a location for intentional outreach, evangelization and new ministry to the African, African-American, Anglo and Hispanic community.

Next Steps

- Parish leadership and parishioners will discern possibilities for the name of the newly united parish of St. Bede the Venerable and St. Denis, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit their considerations to Cardinal Cupich for his decision on the permanent name of the new parish.
- St. Thomas More Parish will be known as St. Thomas More Mission.
- 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.