



Far North East Suburbs Renew My Church Update: November 2021

Discernment Process

St. Patrick and Our Lady of Humility 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 and school structure for the area. Our deepest appreciation goes to the GFDT who prayerfully discerned the parish 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 Grob are grateful to Fr. Stemn, Fr. Merold and the Grouping Team who gathered together, and all 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 this grouping.

- **St. Patrick and Our Lady of Humility will unite as one parish with two worship sites, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.**
 - Both churches will continue to host a regular schedule of Masses. The specific schedule will be determined by the pastor in consultation with parish leadership.
 - St. Patrick will formally be designated the parish church where the united parish's sacramental records will be kept.
 - The local community will discern possibilities for the new permanent name, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich.
 - The Archdiocese of Chicago's Priest Placement Board will continue its discernment of a candidate to recommend as pastor of the newly unified parish. More information will be shared when it is available.
- **St. Patrick School will continue to operate and serve as the parish-governed school.**
- **Our Lady of Humility School will continue and operate as a school governed by the archdiocese.**
 - The united parish will provide pastoral support to Our Lady of Humility School.
 - Academic, enrollment, and other administrative reporting will be to the archdiocese rather than the united parish.
 - The school will be expected to operate without financial support from the united parish.

Rationale

- Uniting the two parishes will enable developing a cohesive pastoral and evangelization plan for the northeast area of Lake County, help address realities of the declining number of pastors available to staff parishes and provide a structure to most effectively build a full parish staff to support ministry in the area.
- The Grouping Team articulated beautiful devotion to Mary as Our Lady of Humility's patron, as well as a history of retreats being integral to the parish. Both are encouraged to continue as part of the united parish's ministry.
- For schools, the RMC Commission and Office of Catholic Schools believe continuing St. Patrick School and Our Lady of Humility School as separate programs offers the best opportunity to serve as many children in Catholic schools as possible in this area. Ongoing work will be required to ensure financial sustainability, particularly at Our Lady of Humility School.



Additional Notes on schools

- The Office of Catholic Schools is committed to growing enrollment at the four Catholic schools in this area of the archdiocese – St. Patrick, Our Lady of Humility, St. Anastasia, and Most Blessed Trinity – to enrich the lives of students in this area.

Next steps

- 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.
- The newly united parish community, will embark upon the next phase of renewal, focusing on strong evangelization to the world around us. We know that this structural change is just the beginning of our journey of renewal.
- Renewal of our Church means that every Catholic, every searcher, and everyone who loves Jesus and his Church, will have to look anew at what it means to be Jesus' disciple and to live out that discipleship.
- Profound gratitude to all involved in the process to date, and prayers for all those who will take up the next phase of renewal, sharing faith and evangelizing those searching to know Jesus more deeply.