



## Melrose Park - Northlake Renew My Church Update: Sept. 16, 2021

### Discernment Process


Six years ago, Cardinal Cupich called all parishioners and all parishes into a time of renewal. For the past five months, St. Charles Borromeo, St. John Vianney and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parishes engaged in the Renew My Church (RMC) review and discernment process. 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 global 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 Birmingham are grateful to Fr. Cerda, Fr. Winkelmann, Fr. Bizzotto 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 parishes in the Melrose Park - Northlake grouping.

- **All three parishes will remain in their current structures.**
  - After a deep examination of what it will take to enhance ministries in Building the New Reality and possible unifications, there will not be any unification of parishes.
  - The archdiocese is grateful for the pastoral leadership and commitment of the Scalabrini Fathers at St. Charles Borromeo and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes.
  - St. John Vianney School will remain in its current structure, subject to maintaining future financial and enrollment viability.
  - Cardinal Cupich affirms the grouping team's realization that continued work, especially in the area of evangelization and re-evangelization of parishioners, will be necessary into the future to regroup people in their discipleship. We know that only disciples can invite and inspire other disciples.
  - Pope Francis calls us to not only be disciples of Jesus, but Missionary Disciples who share the Good News of Jesus in the world around us, a world ning to hear and know Jesus. The Renew My Church imperative of making disciples will continue to be the mission into the decades to come.

### Next Steps

The parish communities will embark upon the next phase of renewal, focusing on strong evangelization to the world around us. Specifically, with the support of the Evangelization team of the Archdiocese, your parishes will continue to build the new reality, focused on deepening discipleship, and supporting disciples in becoming missionary disciples for the work of evangelization. The renewal process calls us to become a stronger, more sustainable presence for the future, capable of reaching more people by sharing our discipleship in Jesus Christ, building communities with one another and inspiring witness in the world around us.