



Far Southside Renew My Church Update: January 2022

Discernment Process

Holy Name of Mary, SS. Peter and Paul, St. Anthony, St. John De La Salle, St. Kilian, St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Sabina Parishes and Sacred Heart Mission 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 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 Perry are grateful to Fr. Gilbert, Fr. Mwageni, Fr. Krylowicz, Fr. Kiiguta, Fr. Eruaga, Fr. Pflieger 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.

- **Holy Name of Mary, SS. Peter and Paul and St. John De La Salle will unite as a new parish, with a new name, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.**
 - **Holy Name of Mary will serve as the parish church and the sole location for the parish's regular schedule of Masses.**
 - **The specific timeline to fully transition Masses to Holy Name of Mary will be determined by parish leadership in the coming months.**
 - The local community will discern possibilities for the new permanent name of the parish, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich. Each church will retain its dedicated name while the newly united parish receives a new name.
 - 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. Margaret of Scotland and St. Kilian will unite as a new parish, with a new name, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.**
 - **St. Margaret of Scotland will serve as the parish church and the sole location for the parish's regular schedule of Masses.**
 - **The specific timeline to fully transition Masses to St. Margaret of Scotland will be determined by parish leadership in the coming months.**
 - The local community will discern possibilities for the new permanent name of the parish, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich. Each church will retain its dedicated name while the newly united parish receives a new name.
 - 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. Anthony Parish will continue in its current structure.**
- **St. Sabina Parish will continue in its current structure.**
- **Sacred Heart Mission's future structure will have continued discernment.**
- **There are no changes to the schools (St. Ethelreda, St. John De La Salle, St. Margaret of Scotland, and St. Sabina) in the grouping.** Each school's pastoral connection to a parish will be confirmed in the coming weeks now that the parish structure has been decided.



Rationale

- Based on the grouping team's feedback and other data available, the archdiocesan RMC Commission proposed the four parishes as the best future structure to support vibrant Black Catholic ministry, Spanish language ministry and honor history within the grouping.
- In each of the uniting parishes, the grouping team concluded that the community in each united parish will best be served by worshipping together at one site.
 - The grouping team had consensus on St. Margaret of Scotland serving as the worship site for the united parish of St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Kilian.
 - Various considerations were evaluated to determine the best worship site in the uniting parish of Holy Name of Mary, St. John De La Salle, and Saints Peter & Paul. In reviewing the grouping team's feedback and all data available, the archdiocesan RMC Commission proposed Holy Name of Mary would meet the ministry space needs of the united parish and best honor the Black Catholic identity and history of the uniting communities.

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 communities 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.