



St. Cecilia and St. Colette Renew My Church Update: January 2023

Discernment Process

St. Cecilia and St. Colette 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.

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. Guillen, Fr. Mahonge 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 parishes in this grouping.

- **St. Cecilia and St. Colette will unite as one parish with two worship sites, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2023.**
 - 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. Cecilia will formally be designated the parish church where the united parish's sacramental records will be kept.
 - Noting that there is a strong Hispanic community at both parishes, the priest placement board will take this into consideration when recommending a pastor candidate to Cardinal Cupich for the newly unified parish.
 - The local community will discern possibilities for the new permanent name of the united parish, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich. Each church retains its name while the united parish receives a new name.

Rationale

- The RMC Commission and Presbyteral Council recommended uniting the two parishes to provide a more stable foundation for investing in ministry for the future, in particular the Hispanic ministry at each current parish.
- Uniting under one pastor and parish structure provides the most effective means to steward the human and financial resources of the parishes for missionary work into the future.
- As one parish, the leadership team will have flexibility for hosting ministries across the two campuses and discern holistically which non-church buildings on each campus are best used for ministry and if any should be considered for leasing to a tenant.

Next steps

- The parish communities will continue to the next phase of renewal, focusing on strong evangelization to the world around us. Specifically, with the support of the Parish Vitality Coordinator, Eleanor Segraves, and 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.
- We know that this structural change is just the beginning of our journey of renewal. 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.
- 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.