



## ***Renew My Church***

Renew My Church is both a call from Jesus Christ to work with Him in the renewal of His Church and our response as an archdiocese – as a family in faith – to bring new and sustainable life to our parishes in order to more effectively make disciples, build communities and inspire witness in our world today.

**Make Disciples** - We are Jesus’ disciples, and as disciples, we are sent on mission. It is the same mission Jesus gave to the Apostles and it is our mission today, which is to “Go, and make disciples.” (Mt 28:19). As baptized Catholics, it is our responsibility to act on this Great Commission of our Lord. Together, we will explore renewed ways to grow in our own relationship with Jesus and to evangelize and form new and existing Catholics in faith, especially the young. And through deeper discipleship and encounter with Jesus, we will awaken the ability to understand God’s plan for each of us – our vocation – and place a renewed focus on encouraging vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

**Build Communities** – We will revitalize our parishes and schools alike, increasing vibrancy and fortifying bonds with each other, drawing us and others to active participation in His Church. We will invest in people to build pastoral leadership teams that can help teach and pass on the faith and foster a greater sense of community in each parish.

**Inspire Witness** – We will come together in solidarity and spread the light and hope of Jesus Christ to transform the world. Together, through a deeper commitment to our own discipleship and stronger bonds of community, we will find new ways to serve the needs of the people on the margins of society: the poor, the hungry and the outcast.

### **How we, as an archdiocese, will renew ...**

Grounded in prayer and enlivened by the sacramental life of our Church, we are refreshing our commitment to our Lord’s gospel commission through a multitude of priority initiatives.



More details about these initiatives can be found on <https://www.renewmychurch.org/>.

Your parish is currently engaged in the grouping rollout that begins to address parish vitality and support renewed ways to build communities across the archdiocese.



Through the grouping rollout, our goals are to ensure that all parishes have the vision, leadership, resources, and operational foundation necessary for a sustainable Catholic presence in the collective communities within the grouping and to create an effective culture of evangelization that makes disciples, builds communities, and inspires witness. To do so, a grouping must start by answering these questions:

- Given resource realities, what do we need to change structurally so we are better together?
- How can we be more effective through collaboration?

Your grouping has begun this journey of discussing and discerning feedback on structural scenarios and collaboration that are viable and sustainable and renew the Church given today's realities.

**What are Scenarios?**

**Scenarios** = Possibilities regarding new parish and school structures in the grouping that enable the vision of making disciples, building communities, and inspiring witness.

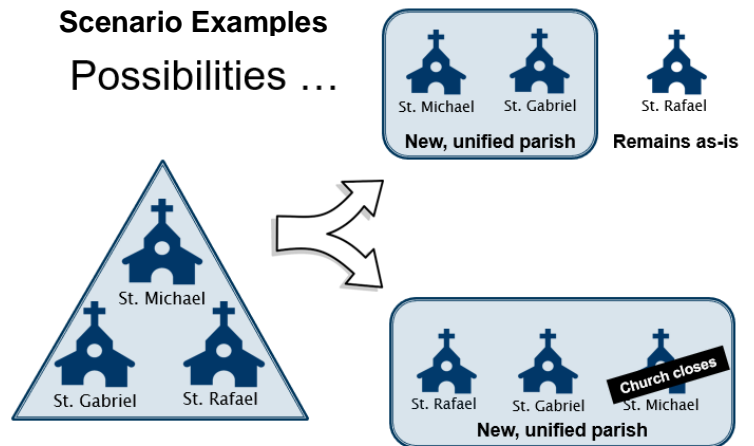
Includes:

**Status of the parishes**, e.g.:

- Remain in current parish structure
- Unite with another parish and all church buildings remain open
- Unite with another parish and some church building(s) close

**School status** (i.e., remain open, close, merge with another school and explore multi-campus possibilities)

**Scenario Examples Possibilities ...**



*Note: These are generic examples. Specific scenarios for our grouping will be discussed at the next parish meeting.*

**Who decides what is the best scenario?**

Cardinal Cupich makes the final decision – it is his responsibility as our archbishop. However, he has asked specifically for feedback from every grouping to understand how each scenario would work based on local experience and realities. He also relies on input from the Renew My Church Commission and Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council (Priests' Council). Their roles are to ensure consistency in how scenarios are evaluated in the process leading to the Cardinal's final decision.

**How does the Cardinal get our feedback?**

Two types of meetings help inform the feedback our grouping will provide to the Cardinal:

- 1. Grouping Sessions - Local parish & school leaders meet over the upcoming weeks/months to:**
  - Learn more about each other across the grouping – e.g., visit each other's campuses
  - Discuss strengths and challenges in each community in the grouping
  - Discern feedback on possible structural scenarios; considering current realities and your local lived experience in your community
  - Incorporate feedback or insights heard at the parishes
  - Submit a Feedback Summary Report to the RMC Commission and Cardinal Cupich
- 2. Parish Sessions – Parishioner gather with their Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team to:**
  - Remain informed about what is being discussed, understand the RMC process, and local situation
  - Provide input to the parish members of the team to bring to the grouping-level discussions

It is only in praying together and working together as mature, charitable and committed Catholics that we will hear the Lord's Word for us and have the spiritual energy and endurance to assist in the renewal of His Church.