



Bronzeville/Hyde Park Grouping

Renew My Church: Parish Conversation to Discuss our Future

As Jesus Christ calls us to constantly renew His Church, we must be prepared to lend our voice and efforts to the possible ways in which we bring about that needed renewal. Included here is a summary of where we are today, but much more will be shared in the coming weeks. Please provide your feedback and input.



Process Overview

Renewal requires envisioning, planning, and new means to bring Jesus Christ to others. There are nearly 100 groupings of parishes and schools across the Archdiocese engaging in a process to address necessary questions of structure, how to work together across communities within each grouping, and to establish a strong foundation for vitality through focused evangelization and faith formation efforts. Supporting our parishes with the best structures enables us to breathe renewed life into our efforts to *make disciples, build communities, and inspire witness*.

Initial Scenarios

To initiate discussion, the Archdiocese has offered a set of initial scenarios that show potential models of how our parishes and schools could be configured in the future. These initial scenarios have been developed accounting for data such as demographics, Mass attendance, financial and facility conditions. The scenarios reflect input from archdiocese staff, vicariate leaders, and local pastors.

These initial scenarios, are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.** The Grouping Feedback & Discernment team may propose additional scenarios they believe merit discussion as long as they would be viable.

These scenarios will be evaluated against a set of criteria determined using data across the Archdiocese for how a structure would support vitality and ensure viability, such as:

- **Ministerial and spiritual needs of the parish:** To enliven the work of evangelization, formation, worship, and pastoral care in today's time and culture, parishes ordinarily will build a strong a staff team to support the pastor. Staff teams will be professionally trained and justly paid. To support this staffing and basic operations, such as paying utilities, parishes generally will need operating revenue of \$750,000 or more (excluding rental income).
- **Parishioner count and Mass attendance:** Based on the number of pastors expected to be available across the Archdiocese in the future, a minimum of 800 parishioners attending weekend Mass is generally needed to be assigned a full-time, resident pastor. In addition, parishes need enough people power (i.e, parishioner count) to support vibrant ministries.
- **Pastoral manageability:** It is critical that our structures support our pastors and pastoral teams to focus as much time and energy as possible on ministry. These structures need to be realistic to manage, considering potential travel between campuses, sacramental coverage, and administrative, facility, and ministerial needs.
- **Parish financial stability and facilities:** Parish financial stability and adequate, accessible and safe facilities with capacity for growth and affordable ongoing repair/maintenance.
- **School quality and financial stability:** The school should be best positioned to provide the very highest quality of faith formation and academic quality in a manner that is financially sustainable. A key measure is the **potential to enroll a minimum of 240 students in PK-8**, considering area demographics and parish student population.

Additional Information and Definitions for Reading the Initial Scenarios:

The next page includes the initial scenarios for our grouping, which consists of:

- St. Ambrose Parish
- St. Anselm Parish
- Corpus Christi Parish
- St. Elizabeth Parish
- Holy Angels Parish and Holy Angels School
- St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and St. Thomas the Apostle School

Key data for each parish are listed on the final page of this document.

Reading the scenarios, it is important to distinguish between the words parish and church.

Parish = The People, Community, Organization

Church = Building; the sacred space in which we worship

A united parish has one pastor, budget, staff, Finance Council, etc. – but may have multiple churches. The assets of each parish uniting as one parish become the assets of the united parish.

A united parish may take the form of a new parish with a new name (Parish A and Parish B form New Parish C) or Parish B becoming part of Parish A. In either case, the church buildings retain their names. So Church B would still be Church B even if it becomes part of Parish A.

When a parish would have two churches, one of the churches would be designated as the parish church where the sacramental records would be kept.

As we review the scenarios, it is important for all us to do so prayerfully keeping in mind that the spiritual and structural renewal to which we are called to foster are connected. The best and most effective and efficient stewardship of our resources (structural renewal) can allow us to invest more into the ministries that directly work toward making disciples, building community and inspiring witness (spiritual renewal).

Just as Jesus asks us to pray always, He also invites us to trust always. Together, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to determine how Our Lord will use existing structures to create new ones that bring more people into relationship with Him.



Your input is needed

Again, these initial scenarios are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.** We are asked to provide feedback on the initial scenarios from the Archdiocese and propose alternative scenarios and configuration models.

Initial Parish Scenarios for Discernment:

Scenario 1: 2 parishes, 3 churches with Sunday Mass

Parish 1: St. Ambrose, St. Anselm, Corpus Christi, St. Elizabeth, and Holy Angels unite as a new parish. 2 of the churches continue to have a regular Sunday Mass schedule for the new parish. The other churches move toward formal closure.

Parish 2: St. Thomas the Apostle continues in its current structure.

Scenario 2: 2 parishes, 2 churches with Sunday Mass

Parish 1: St. Ambrose, St. Anselm, Corpus Christi, St. Elizabeth, and Holy Angels unite as a new parish. One of the churches is the location for all of the parish's regularly scheduled Sunday Masses. The other churches move toward formal closure.

Parish 2: St. Thomas the Apostle continues in its current structure.

Scenario 3: 2 parishes, 3 churches with Sunday Mass

Parish 1: St. Anselm, Corpus Christi, St. Elizabeth, and Holy Angels unite as a new parish. 2 of the churches continue to have a regular Sunday Mass schedule for the new parish. The other churches move toward formal closure.

Parish 2: St. Ambrose and St. Thomas the Apostle unite as a parish under the title St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. St. Thomas the Apostle is the location for all of the parish's regularly scheduled liturgies. St. Ambrose Church moves toward formal closure.

Scenario 4: 2 parishes, 2 churches with Sunday Mass

Parish 1: St. Anselm, Corpus Christi, St. Elizabeth, and Holy Angels unite as a new parish. One of the churches is the location for all of the parish's regularly scheduled liturgies. The other churches move toward formal closure.

Parish 2: St. Ambrose and St. Thomas the Apostle unite as a parish under the title St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. St. Thomas the Apostle is the location for all of the parish's regularly scheduled liturgies. St. Ambrose Church moves toward formal closure.

