



## O'Hare Neighborhood Renew My Church Update: May 12, 2021

### **Discernment Process**

Immaculate Conception, St. Juliana, Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Our Lady of Hope, Our Lady of Ransom and St. Paul of the Cross Parishes engaged in the Renew My Church (RMC) review and discernment process through 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 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 Bartosic are grateful to Fr. Heinrich, Fr. Wallace, Fr. Ho, Fr. Oleksy, Fr. Bozovsky, Fr. Berchmans 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 parish structure in the O'Hare Neighborhood grouping.

- **Effective July 1, 2021, Our Lady of Hope will become a mission of Mary, Seat of Wisdom parish.**
  - Regular Sunday Worship will continue at both locations, Mary, Seat of Wisdom and the Mission of Our Lady of Hope.
  - Fr. Derek Ho continues as Pastor at Mary, Seat of Wisdom.
  - Fr. Wojciech Oleksy will serve as the Mission Director until he is reassigned, at which time a new director will be assigned.
  - Mass schedules at each location after July 1 will be a priority topic for the pastor, Mission Director and parish leadership in the coming months.
  - The Parish will be known as Mary, Seat of Wisdom and Our Lady of Hope Mission.
  
- **Immaculate Conception, St. Juliana, St. Paul of the Cross and Our Lady of Ransom will remain in their current structures as each meet and exceed the foundational principals.**

### **Parish Structure Rationale**

- Over the past few months, Our Lady of Hope has discerned, very clearly, its three-fold mission:
  - As the only Church, Catholic or otherwise in Rosemont, Our Lady of Hope serves current and future parishioners in that area.
  - Further, Our Lady of Hope provides an outstanding daily Mass opportunity to the business population in that area, similar to St. Peters in the Loop.



- And finally, Our Lady of Hope provides an important missionary service to the travelers and hospitality / convention industry near the airport.

This three-fold mission will serve as the focus for Our Lady of Hope to be a dedicated mission in the future, rather than be fully united to Mary, Seat of Wisdom.

- Congratulations to all six parishes as they embarked upon a deep reflection and assessment process, first looking at how each Parish is supporting disciples on their journey of faith and then investigating the five strategies for renewal of parish life.
- Collectively we know that it is only disciples who can help to support and make new disciples. Your preliminary work, for all six parishes in this area, will serve you well as you continue onto the next phase of Renew My Church, called Building the New Reality.
- The overarching goal of the next phase, is to continue to raise up, support and deepen discipleship in all parishioners, assisting all parishioners on their journey to become Missionary Disciples for the work of evangelization.
- Given the great leadership of the parishes in this area, we look forward to a dynamic journey into discipleship and evangelization to come.

## **Next Steps**

The parish communities will embark upon the next phase of renewal, focusing on strong evangelization to the world around us. 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.