



Northwest Side – Harwood Heights - Norridge Renew My Church Update: January 2022

Discernment Process

St. Eugene, St. Monica, Divine Savior, Our Lady Mother of the Church and St. Rosalie 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. 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, Bishop Bartosic and Bishop Birmingham are grateful to Fr. Yanos, Fr. Lorens, Fr. Blazek, Fr. Bartosz, Fr. Mikulski 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.

- **St. Monica and St. Rosalie will unite as one parish with two worship sites, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.**
 - **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.**
 - **Fr. Greg Lorens will serve as pastor of the newly united parish. Cardinal Cupich is grateful to the Pauline Fathers for their ministry to St. Rosalie Parish the past twenty years.**
 - St. Monica will formally be designated the parish church where the united parish's sacramental records will be kept.
 - 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.
 - St. Monica Academy will remain as the parish-governed school of the united parish formed by St. Monica and St. Rosalie.
- **St. Eugene, Divine Savior and Our Lady Mother of the Church will unite to form one parish, with one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.**
 - **St. Eugene and Our Lady Mother of the Church will continue to host a regular schedule of Masses. The specific schedule will be determined by the pastor in consultation with parish leadership.**
 - **The RMC Commission has recommended concluding regularly scheduled Masses at Divine Savior Church between August 1 and September 5 (Labor Day weekend) 2022.**
 - St. Eugene will formally be designated the parish church where the united parish's sacramental records will be kept.
 - 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.
 - The Archdiocese of Chicago's Priest Placement Board will continue its discernment of a candidate to recommend as pastor of the newly united parish. More information will be shared when it is available.
 - St. Eugene School will continue in its current governance and financial structure. It will be pastorally supported by the united parish formed by St. Eugene, Divine Savior, and Our Lady Mother of the Church.
- As part of the regular review process between the parish leadership team and the Episcopal Vicar and his team, the viability of continuing two church sites in each united parish will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.



Rationale

- Uniting the parishes as indicated will enable developing cohesive pastoral and evangelization plans for each united parish's territory, help address realities of the declining number of pastors available to staff parishes and provide a structure to most effectively build a full parish staff to support ministry in the area.
- A united St. Monica and St. Rosalie will be able to continue bilingual ministry in English and Polish. The united parish will be able to use both campuses to set a Mass schedule that works well for balancing the needs of the English and Polish speaking communities.
- A united St. Eugene, Divine Savior, and Our Lady Mother of the Church would not be able to sustain three worship sites for reasons of both pastoral manageability and finances. St. Eugene's campus provides parish and school facilities to serve as an administrative center for the parish. Our Lady Mother of the Church provides accessible space for Masses and other ministries to supplement St. Eugene's facilities. Divine Savior's facilities require more investment than Our Lady Mother of the Church's facilities. While it is difficult to draw down ministry at any campus, fully maintaining three campuses is not sustainable.
- In both united parishes, ongoing viability of continuing multiple sites will be reviewed by parish leadership with each parish's regional bishop and his vicariate team to ensure that the facilities are continuing to support the parish's ministries and demonstrate prudent stewardship.

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.