

# RENEW MY CHURCH UPDATE



Dear Parishioners of St. Colette, Misión San Juan Diego, St. Theresa and St. Thomas of Villanova,

On Monday, March 12th, our Renew My Church Grouping leadership met and was given two scenarios by the Archdiocese of Chicago to further our conversation as a group. We share these scenarios with you this weekend. It is very important to note a few realities:

These scenarios show potential models of how our parishes and schools could be configured in the future. These initial scenarios, which will be shared in detail at our next parish meeting, are conversation starters only.

## **NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE!**

The two initial scenarios are intended to spark conversation about how to most effectively minister to the entire grouping and how to provide an underlying structure to support that ministry.

Through the process, our grouping is encouraged to propose alternatives that could as effectively or more effectively support ministry in the grouping. Initial discussions about additional forms of collaboration may emerge as well.

It is important to note that any structural changes would be proposed to take effect July 1, 2019. No parish nor school changes would occur for the 2018-19 parochial and school year.

### **Initial Scenario 1**

- St. Colette and Misión San Juan Diego would join together at the St. Colette site. This united parish would sell the current Misión San Juan Diego property to re-invest in the space at the St. Colette campus.
- St. Theresa and St. Thomas of Villanova Parishes would remain in their current parish structures as canonically independent parishes with their own full-time resident pastors.
- St. Theresa School and St. Thomas of Villanova School would be able to continue in their current structures and programming. However, through the Renew My Church process, the leadership of both communities may certainly explore if there would be opportunities to strengthen Catholic education through any structural or programmatic changes.
- Tax Credit Scholarships are hoped to play a vital role in strengthening access to Catholic education and enrollment at St. Colette School. The archdiocese has made a commitment to the school for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years to allow time for efforts to increase enrollment. This scenario aims for St. Colette School to reach vital enrollment and financial stability to continue operating for the long-term.

### **Initial Scenario 2**

- All four parishes would remain as canonically independent parishes at their current sites.
- To strengthen ministry, St. Thomas of Villanova and Misión San Juan Diego would explore establishing a deeper partnership to use shared ministry facilities at the St. Thomas of Villanova campus. Misión San Juan Diego would continue to hold Mass at its current site.
- St. Theresa School and St. Thomas of Villanova School would be able to continue in their current structures and programming. However, through the Renew My Church process, the leadership of both communities may certainly explore if there would be opportunities to strengthen Catholic education through any structural or programmatic changes.
- If Tax Credit Scholarships do not have the hoped for impact on enrollment and financial stability at St. Colette School, the difficult decision may need to be made to close St. Colette School in the future. If this decision to close were to be made in the future, the grouping would be expected to work together to welcome as many St. Colette school students and families as possible to the other Catholic schools.

### **YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED — PLEASE COME TO OUR NEXT PARISH MEETING TO SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK AND INPUT.**

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.

Please continue to pray for the success of the Renew My Church process, and may God bless you always.

Fr. Michal Lewon  
Pastor, St. Colette

Fr. Diego Berrio  
Pastor, Misión San Juan Diego

Fr. Tim Fairman  
Pastor, St. Theresa

Fr. Tom Rzepiela  
Pastor, St. Thomas of Villanova