

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Dear Parishioners of St. Ann:

I write to you to share updates regarding the Renew My Church (RMC) groupings for the parishes in the south suburbs of Vicariate VI: After consultation with the RMC Team and the Vicariate Team we are bringing together St. Ann (Lansing), St. James (Sauk Village), St. John (Glenwood) and St. Lawrence O'Toole (Matteson) with the grouping of St. Irenaeus (Park Forest), St. Agnes and St. Kieran and St. Paul (Chicago Heights). This expanded grouping will engage the RMC discernment process looking forward to new parish structures through the rest of this year.

Why this change?

Given the challenges posed by the pandemic including the temporary closure of churches across the Archdiocese, the RMC launch timeline is being re-evaluated for every remaining grouping across the Archdiocese. As the parishes of Chicago Heights and Park Forest began their preparation for their RMC grouping discernment process it became clear that adding the parishes of Lansing, Sauk Village, Glenwood and Matteson to the process would allow for a richer discussion and will offer the opportunity for a more comprehensive discernment about the best parish structures for the future.

For parishes that had not been planning to be in the RMC process this year we understand this is a significant shift. Your planning for 2020-2021 had already been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and now the significant work and attention required to re-open our churches. The Renew My Church staff, the Vicariate VI Team and I are committed to supporting you throughout this revised grouping process.

What about the other parishes nearby?

St. Anne (Hazel Crest), St. Emeric (Country Club Hills), Infant Jesus of Prague (Flossmoor) and St. Joseph (Homewood) will remain as a grouping of four parishes and will engage the RMC process next year 2021.

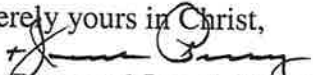
What's next?

The pastors will receive more information to share with you in the coming weeks about what to expect of the steps moving forward. The RMC staff is working with your pastor on an appropriate schedule for how best to engage the discernment process with all 8 parishes now

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involved. We do not know what the outcomes will be but we do know that things cannot remain as they are. We also know the Lord remains with us and we will be strengthened by keeping each other in prayer, offering our collaboration and wisdom as people of God and disciples of Jesus. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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