



Cicero-Berwyn-Stickney (“CBS”) Renew My Church Update: January 2022

Discernment Process

Our Lady of Charity, St. Leonard, St. Pius X and St. Mary of Czestochowa 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 and school 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 and Bishop Birmingham are grateful to Fr. Mena, Fr. Krueger, Fr. Castillo, Fr. Latkowski 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. Leonard and St. Pius X will unite as one parish with two 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.
 - St. Leonard 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, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich.
 - Fr. Bobby Krueger will serve as pastor of the newly unified parish.
 - St. Leonard School will serve as the parish school.

- **St. Mary of Czestochowa and Our Lady of Charity will unite as one parish with two 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.
 - St. Mary of Czestochowa 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, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich.
 - Fr. Waldemar Latkowski, C.Ss.R., will serve as pastor of the newly unified parish.
 - Our Lady of Charity School will serve as the parish school.

Rationale

- Uniting these parishes will enable developing cohesive pastoral and evangelization plans for the territories they serve, 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.
- Consideration was given to a scenario in which St. Leonard, St. Pius X, and Our Lady of Charity would have all united as one parish and St. Mary of Czestochowa would have remained in its current structure. The RMC Commission was concerned this could create too difficult a structure for a pastor to manage into the future and also leave St. Mary of Czestochowa in a position that would not be sustainable in 5-10 years. Additionally, this structure would have led to complicated school governance and relationships. Uniting St. Leonard and St. Pius X and separately uniting St. Mary of Czestochowa and Our Lady of Charity provides a structure in which each parish has a clear relationship with one parish-based school.



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.