

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## RENEW MY CHURCH Parish Conversation #1

Queen of Angels Parish  
Aug. 22, 2019

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### Hopes for tonight

1. Be grounded in the overall vision of Renew My Church, the parish grouping rollout, and the process for Discernment and Decisions
  - ✓ We'll review the overall process and have Q/A
2. Begin to understand our grouping's current realities
  - ✓ You will be introduced to key realities to be considered
  - ✓ The Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team will report out what they have done at their meetings to date
  - ✓ More Q/A

Note: Scenarios will not be discussed until our next parish meeting.

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## Ground rules for engagement

- Model respect, collaboration, and openness to the Spirit speaking through all of us
- Turn off/silence mobile devices
- Refrain from taking pictures or video recordings of slides or presenters
- Questions/comments are limited to 1 minute each to allow that the time shared among your fellow parishioners. One of the team members has been assigned as timekeeper and will keep us to that time.

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## Why are we here?

**We are called**

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**Where we were**  
Culture *was more Christian, open* to faith, *enabled* people to live out their faith, and *recognized* religion as avenue for spiritual life

**Where we are**  
Culture *is more secular, ambivalent* to faith, *dissuades* people to live out their faith, and *undermines* religion as avenue for spiritual life

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## A decline in faith life



Mass attendance in our archdiocese has decreased by 27% over the past 20 years



Across the U.S., 2 in 5 children baptized are not confirmed



85% of children confirmed stop practicing their faith by age 21

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## Our Response

Called by Jesus Christ, we are

- Making disciples
- Building communities
- Inspiring witness



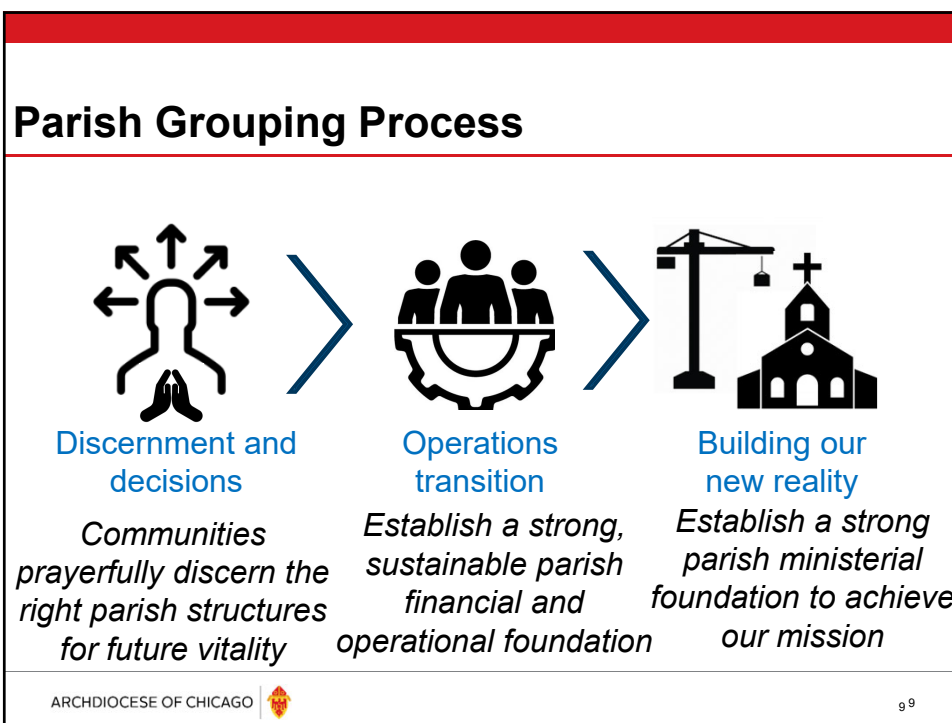
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## Overall goal for groupings

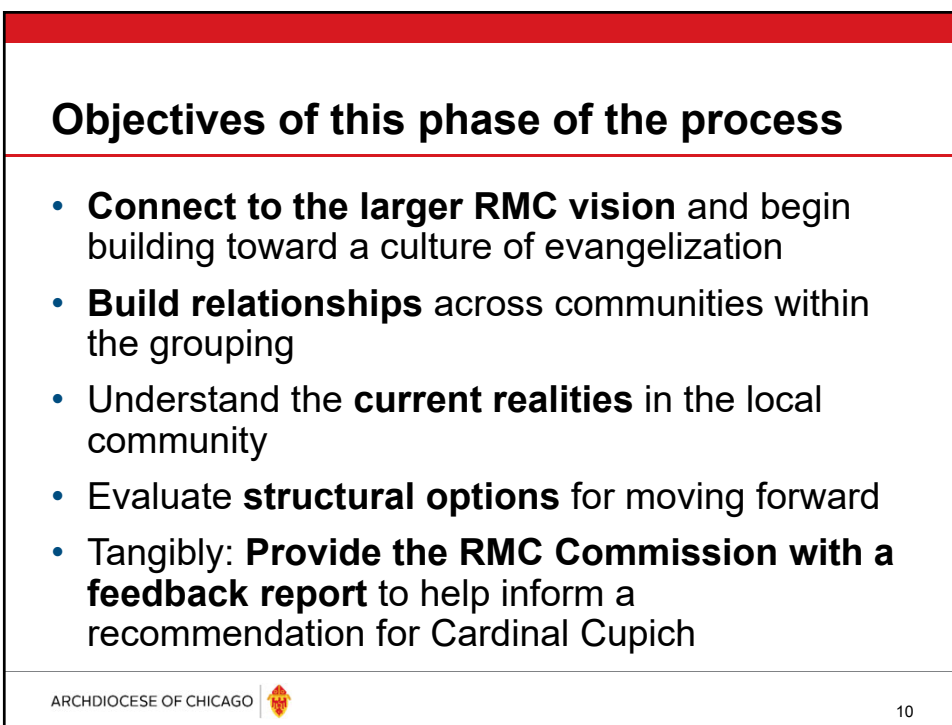
Build a renewed, vital, and sustainable Catholic presence for the good of all people in the collective communities within the grouping.

- What do we need to change structurally, given resource realities?
- How can we be more effective through collaboration?

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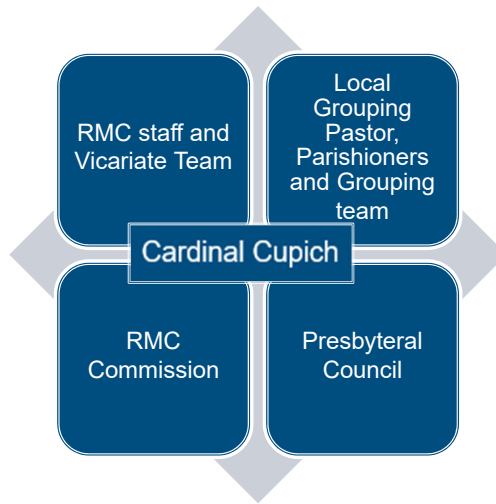


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## How will structural decisions be made?



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## Two types of meetings through the process

Grouping conversations	Parish conversations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discern scenario feedback</li> <li>• Incorporates feedback or insights heard at the parishes</li> <li>• Submit a Feedback Summary Report to the Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable input-gathering from the broader parish</li> <li>• Keep the parish informed about what is being discussed</li> </ul>
Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team	Parishioners, staff, school families, GFDT

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## What are scenarios?

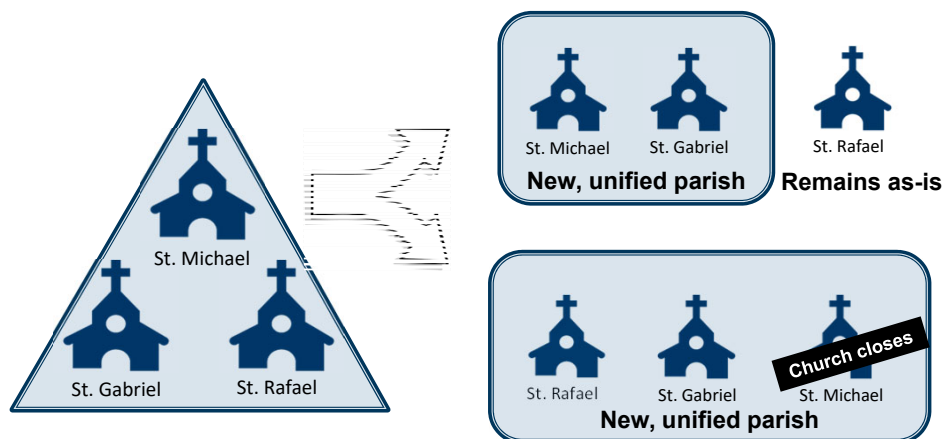
**Scenarios** = possibilities regarding new parish and school structures within the grouping that enable spiritual renewal among those communities.

Includes:

- **Status of the parishes and church buildings, e.g.:**
  - Remain in current parish structure
  - Unite with another parish and all church buildings remain open
  - Unite with another parish and some church building(s) close
- **School status** (i.e., remain open, close, merge with another school and explore multi-campus possibilities)

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## Possibilities ...



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## Key to remember

Our Renew My Church journey is both:

**Spiritual** - to re-encounter Jesus Christ  
as disciples and parish communities

*and*

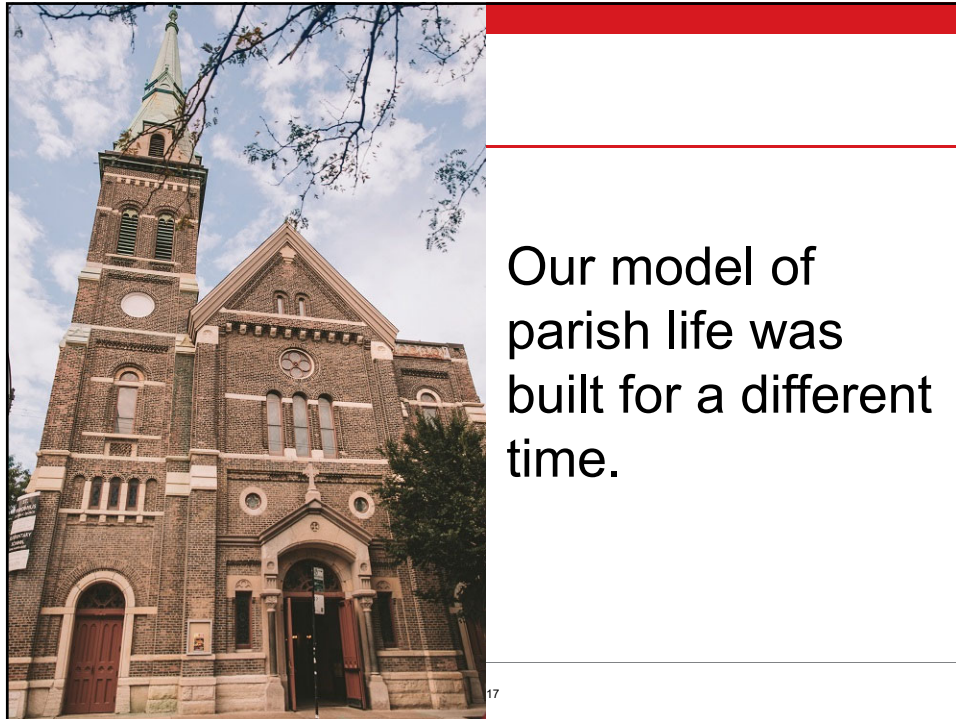
**Structural** - to ensure our parishes have  
adequate resources for vitality

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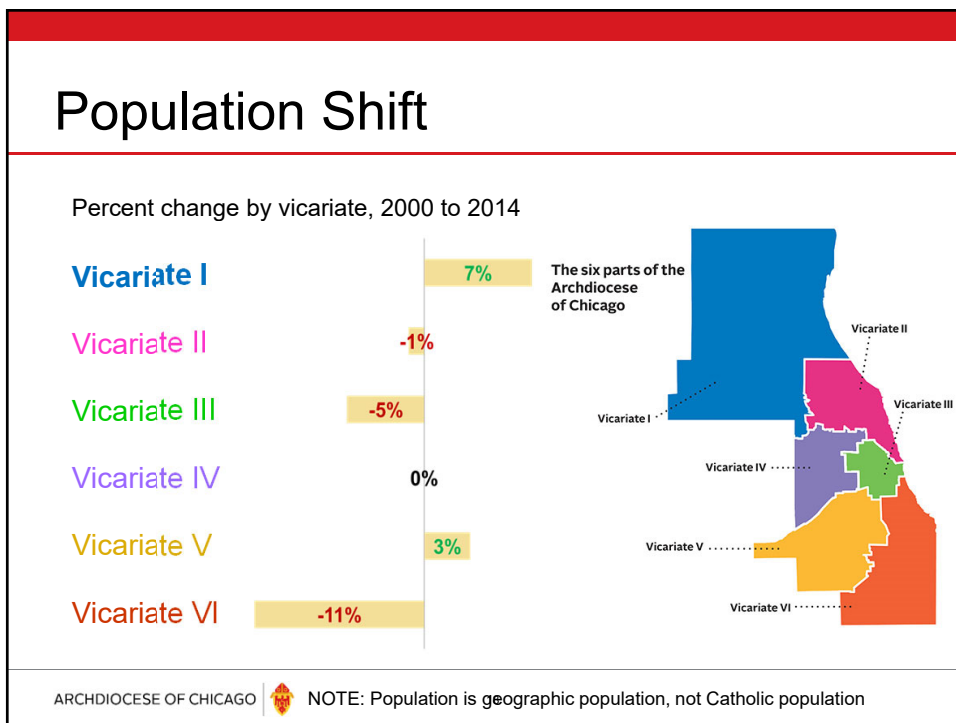
# Why structural renewal?

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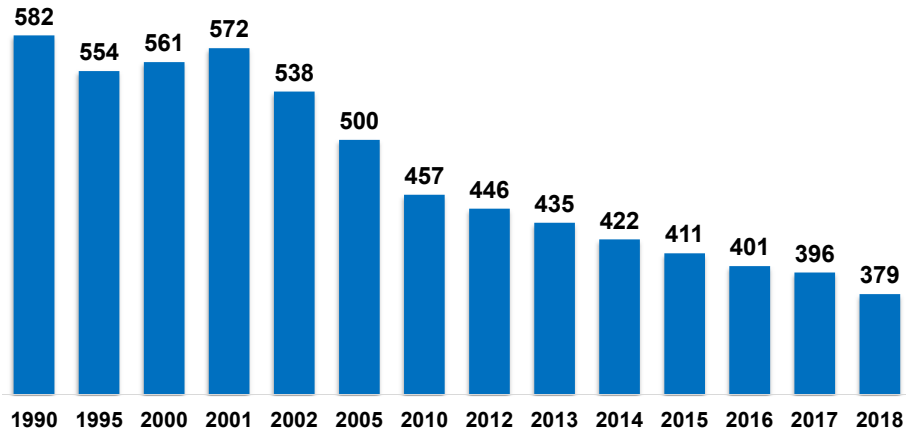
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## Mass attendance (October Count) has declined significantly

Thousands

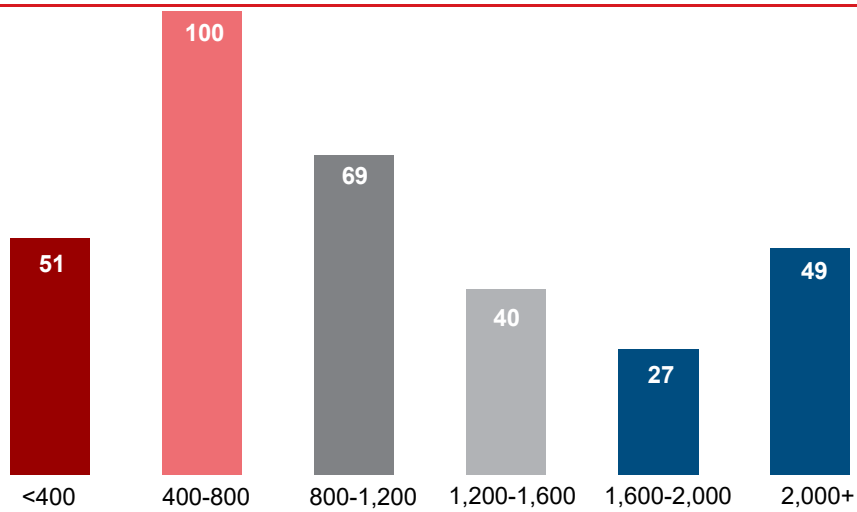


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## Parishes by October Count

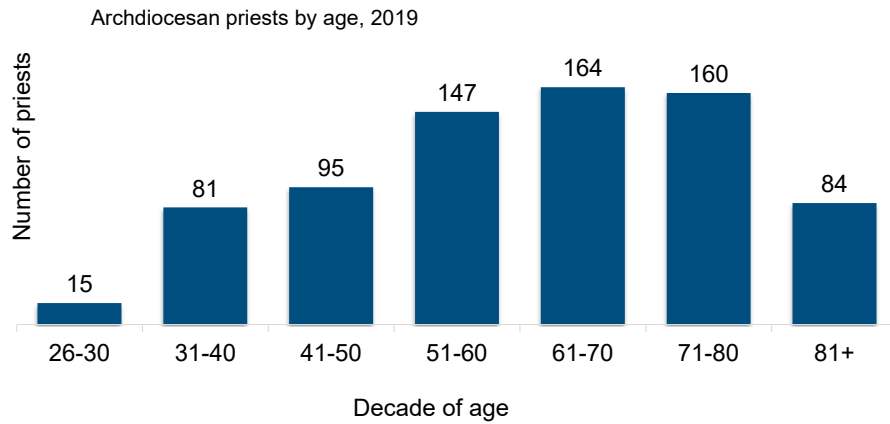


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## Nearly 200 priests to retire soon



Invest in ministry to make disciples.

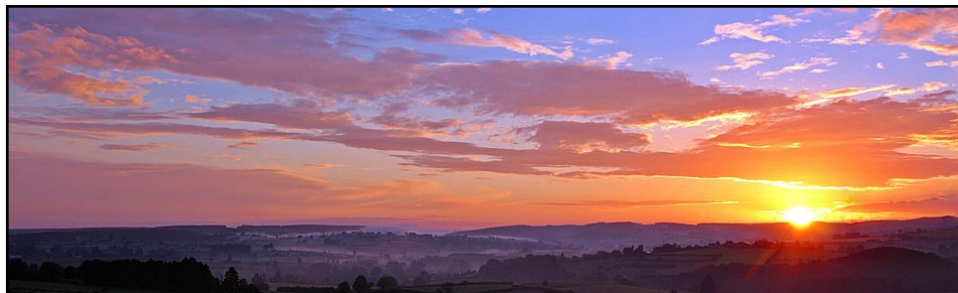
Invest in people to build community.

Invest in ways that inspire witness.

Together, as One, Local Church.

# Why spiritual renewal?

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## Where we were

Culture **was more Christian, open** to faith, **enabled** people to live out their faith, and **recognized** religion as avenue for spiritual life

## Where we are

Culture **is more secular, ambivalent** to faith, **dissuades** people to live out their faith, and **undermines** religion as avenue for spiritual life

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## Questions???



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## Current realities

Before we can begin to consider grouping scenarios, we need to:

- Pause and consider current realities in our national Church, Archdiocesan Church, and in our grouping and individual parishes
- Identify our ministerial and operational strengths and challenges

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## Current realities video keynote

View the video on our parish website at <https://parish.queenofangelschicago.org/rmc-parish-session-1/>

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## ***Making Disciples, Building Communities, Inspiring Witness***

Keeping before us our mission imperatives,  
we answer the questions:

- *What are current strengths within our grouping?*
- *What are challenges that present opportunities to unite resources and minister in renewed ways?*

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## Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

### Strengths help identify...

- Effective mission (ministry, outreach and community)
- Ability to grow
- Operating budgets, buildings and resources that support current and future sustainability

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## Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

### Challenges help identify ...

- Needs to strengthen mission (ministry, outreach and community)
- Ways to address current challenges for growth
- Ways to better align resources (finances, buildings) to invest in ministry

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## Our grouping's strengths and challenges

### *Our Grouping's Strengths:*

1. Diverse parishes mirror the significant diversity in the community – and the Grouping has the only weekly Tagalog Mass.
2. There is a strong sense of community and ownership in the four parishes.

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## Our grouping's strengths and challenges

### *Our Grouping's Strengths:*

3. The parishes in the Grouping operate a variety of complementary, effective ministries and devotions including RCIA, SPRED, CCD, Ministry of Care, Youth Ministry, and Music Ministry.
4. The parishes exhibit both a desire and capacity for growth.

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## Our groupings strengths and challenges

### *Our Grouping's Challenges:*

1. Parish facilities in the Grouping tend to be old with many deferred maintenance needs.
2. Both the resources and staffing need to expand Grouping ministries are limited.
3. The parishes struggle to integrate various ethnic groups into the wider parish community as well as better connect the school and parish communities.

## Our groupings strengths and challenges

### *Our Grouping's Challenges:*

4. There is a need across the Grouping to increase weekly Mass participation especially among young adults.
5. The parishes could be better connected to/engaged with their neighborhoods and seen as valued community anchors and partners.

## Questions or Comments

### Strengths and Challenges

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## What comes next?

- Pick up a copy of the data shared tonight
- Plan to attend Parish Conversation #2...
  - Hold September 17 and September 19 as potential dates
  - Receive draft of conversation-starting structural scenarios
  - Provide feedback on the scenarios

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## Renew My Church Prayer

*Lord Jesus, you speak to us today,  
as you spoke to holy men and women who  
have gone before us.  
In every age and in our own time, you call to us  
and say: Renew My Church.*

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## Renew My Church Prayer

*Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us,  
and so enable us to hear you clearly  
to listen to each other attentively, to imagine our  
future boldly  
to discern your direction wisely, to persevere in  
your holy will courageously  
to stay together in charity, to surrender our own  
plans readily  
to embrace the greater good, to hand on your gifts  
to future generations.*

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## Renew My Church Prayer

*May we remain in the holy company of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints.  
May their example and presence inspire us with patient  
confidence in the work of your grace.*

*We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever. Amen*