

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO 




RENEW MY CHURCH
Parish Conversation 2

QUEEN OF ANGELS
September 17, 2019

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Hopes for Tonight

- **Briefly review *Renew My Church***
- **Receive the draft scenarios**
 - Review the draft scenario handout
 - Then Q/A
- **Begin to provide initial feedback on draft scenarios**
 - You will complete a feedback form
 - Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team members captures feedback to bring to next Grouping Conversation
- **Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team will give you an update on their meetings.**

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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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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.*

5


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*

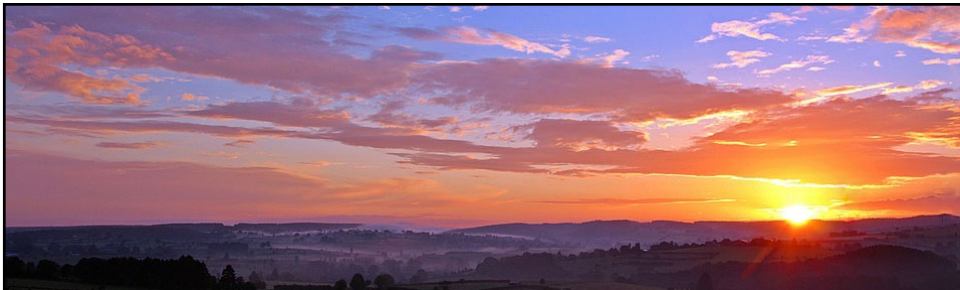
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Why are we here?

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

Our Response

Called by Jesus Christ, we are

- Making disciples
- Building communities
- Inspiring witness



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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How were the scenarios developed?

“Proposed scenarios” were developed accounting for data such as demographics, Mass attendance, financial and facility conditions. The scenarios reflect input from archdiocese staff, vicariate leaders, and local pastors.

These scenarios are meant to serve as “conversation starters” and are in no way conclusive. No decisions have been made.

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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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Scenarios: Guiding principles for evaluating sustainability of a scenario

Quantitative

- **Minimum of 800 parishioners** on average in attendance at weekly Mass
- **Operating revenue (excluding lease income) of \$750K** to support ministry and operations
- **Potential to reach school enrollment of 240 students PK-8**
- **Capital** repairs and investment must be **affordable** and prudent

Qualitative

- Be logistically **manageable** for pastors and parish staff;
- **Account for the local needs** of the community and avoid **geographic deserts**.

All of the principles, quantitative and qualitative, are taken into account. They often times conflict with each other, which is why **trade-offs need to be evaluated to balance quantitative and qualitative considerations**

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Scenario terms to keep in mind


Parish =
The people / community / organization


Church =
The sacred space where we worship - Building.


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**Lincoln Square Grouping
Current Structure**


Queen of Angels


Transfiguration


St. Hilary


St. Matthias

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Parish Scenario 1

The diagram for Parish Scenario 1 is contained within a white rectangular frame with a red header bar. It features two large blue ovals. The top oval contains a blue circular icon of a church with a cross, labeled "Queen of Angels" below it. To the right of this icon, the text "Transfiguration Church closes" is written in green. The bottom oval contains two circular icons: a red one on the left labeled "St. Hilary" and a purple one on the right labeled "St. Matthias". At the bottom left of the frame, the text "ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO" is visible with a small flame icon, and the number "17" is at the bottom right.

Transfiguration Church closes

Queen of Angels

St. Hilary St. Matthias

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Parish Scenario 2

The diagram for Parish Scenario 2 is contained within a white rectangular frame with a red header bar. It features two large blue ovals. The top oval contains two circular icons: a blue one on the left labeled "Queen of Angels" and a purple one on the right labeled "St. Matthias". The bottom oval contains a red circular icon labeled "St. Hilary" and the text "Transfiguration Church closes" in green to its right. At the bottom left of the frame, the text "ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO" is visible with a small flame icon, and the number "18" is at the bottom right.

Queen of Angels St. Matthias

St. Hilary Transfiguration Church closes

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Parish Scenario 3

The diagram for Parish Scenario 3 features a red header bar at the top. Below it, the title "Parish Scenario 3" is displayed in bold black text. The main content area contains three church icons: a blue circle with a white church icon labeled "Queen of Angels" below it; a red circle with a white church icon labeled "St. Hilary" below it; and a purple circle with a white church icon labeled "St. Matthias" below it. A light gray oval with a blue border encloses the "St. Hilary" and "St. Matthias" icons. Between these two icons, the text "Transfiguration Church closes" is written in green. At the bottom left of the diagram area, the text "ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO" is visible with a small flame icon. At the bottom right, the number "19" is present.

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Parish Scenario 4

The diagram for Parish Scenario 4 features a red header bar at the top. Below it, the title "Parish Scenario 4" is displayed in bold black text. The main content area contains three church icons: a blue circle with a white church icon labeled "Queen of Angels" below it; a red circle with a white church icon labeled "St. Hilary" below it; and a purple circle with a white church icon labeled "St. Matthias" below it. A light gray oval with a blue border encloses the "St. Hilary" and "St. Matthias" icons. Between these two icons, the text "Transfiguration Church closes" is written in green. To the right of the "St. Matthias" icon, the text "St. Matthias Church closes" is written in purple. At the bottom left of the diagram area, the text "ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO" is visible with a small flame icon. At the bottom right, the number "20" is present.


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Parish Scenario 5

Queen of Angels St. Matthias

Transfiguration Church closes

St. Hilary

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School scenario 1


Queen of Angels

St. Matthias

St. Hilary

Each school continues in its current program.

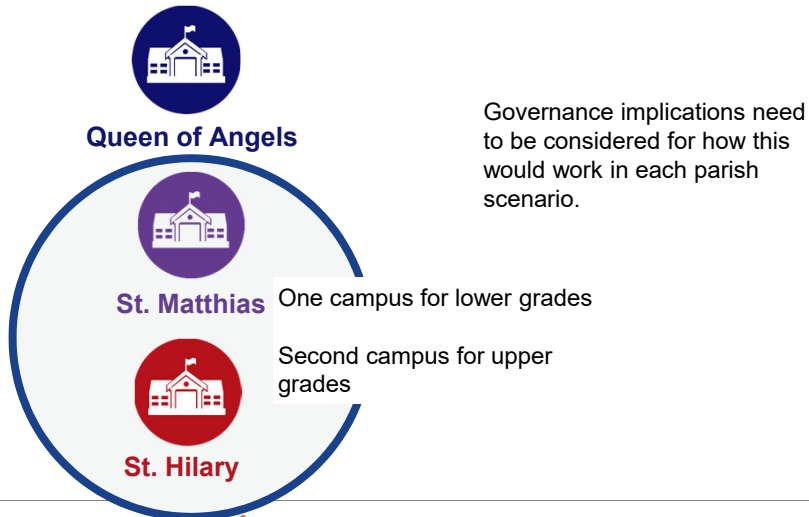
Governance implications need to be considered for how this would work in each parish scenario.

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School scenario 2



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Individual Reflection & Sharing

- **Take the next 1-2 minutes and capture in silent reflection:**
 - What are your initial reactions?
 - What was unclear in the presentation?
 - What information was missing for you?
- **Share initial reactions and ask questions as a large group**

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Scenarios Discussions

Your Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team has been discussing these scenarios for the past few weeks.



Scenarios Discussions

What we use as input for our considerations and discernment:

- Our Summer Discoveries
- Our grouping's realities
- Foundational principals for viable structures
- What we know from our lived experiences

Our Grouping's Realities

What are they?

Information that reports status on and reveals trends about:

- Significant population and ethnic demographic changes in your grouping
- Your parishes' Mass attendance, sacramental records
- Your church and school operating income and expenses
- School and religious education enrollments
- Building conditions and affordability



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Questions???



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Feedback On Scenarios

Fill out a feedback form:

Step 1: Review the scenarios

Step 2: Answer the questions

Step 3: Turn in your feedback

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Feedback On Scenarios

1.) Which scenario **best addresses** the particular needs of this grouping? Why? (e.g., makes geographic sense or considers the socioeconomic factors of the area)

2.) Which scenario **least addresses** the particular needs of this grouping? Why? (e.g., difficulty traveling between sites or neglects the financial needs of the community)

3.) What do you consider the **biggest potential challenge** facing the implementation of these scenarios? (e.g., unrealistic demands on clergy or differences in the parish communities)

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Next Steps

- Our Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team members will collect your feedback and share it with the team members from the other parishes in your grouping
- Pray with these options
- Our Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team members will continue our discernment on the scenarios and submit our feedback with the Commission in the coming months

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