



Kedzie-Elston Corridor Renew My Church Update: May 14, 2021

Discernment Process

St. Edward, Resurrection, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Our Lady of Mercy Parishes engaged in the Renew My Church (RMC) discernment process through the fall of 2020. The Grouping Feedback and Discernment team (GFDT), which was made up of members from each parish community, met to review and discern the future parish structure for the area. Our deepest appreciation goes to the GFDT who prayerfully discerned the parish grouping structure during this challenging time, as well as your patience during additional discernment the past few months.

Based on their meetings and feedback gathered from the larger parish communities, 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, capital needs and parish trends.

Cardinal Cupich and Bishop Bartosic are grateful to Fr. Clemente, Fr. Heneghan, Fr. Desmond and the Grouping Teams who gathered throughout the past few months, and all parishioners who offered feedback through the extended discernment process.

Status

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 further discuss the Commission's discernment. Based upon those discussions and prayerful consideration, Cardinal Cupich intends to implement the following changes to the parish structure in the Kedzie-Elston corridor.

- **As announced previously, effective July 1, 2021, Resurrection Parish will fully unite into Our Lady of Mercy and remain focused on evangelization of the Avondale/Irving Park area.**
 - Resurrection Church will serve as a worship site of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
 - Fr. Nick Desmond will serve as the pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, with the addition of the pastoral responsibility of the parishioners at Resurrection Church.
 - Fr. Bolivar Molina and newly ordained Fr. Leo Sepulveda will serve as Associate Pastors.
 - As good stewards, the newly united parish will work hard on the next phase of evangelization and re-evangelization of Avondale with ongoing careful assessment of the sustainability of two campuses.
- **Effective July 1, 2021, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish will cease as a parish and be canonically divided between Our Lady of Mercy and St. Edward Parishes.**
 - Fr. Dominic Clemente will serve as pastor of St. Edward.
 - St. Edward School will continue with no changes.
- The Renew My Church Commission has additionally recommended:
 - **All regularly scheduled Masses at Immaculate Heart of Mary will transition to Our Lady of Mercy and St. Edward no later than June 30, 2021.**
 - Honoring the intent of local leadership's expectations for the Immaculate Heart of Mary community and their association between Our Lady of Mercy and St. Edward, half (½) of any future asset sale proceeds, after expenses, will accrue to OLM and half (½) will accrue to St. Edward.



Parish Structure Rationale

- Resurrection Parish uniting into Our Lady of Mercy strengthens Hispanic ministry in the combined area.
- The combined religious education program allows for strong formation of our children as they grow into disciples.
- Continuing four independent parishes would not be sustainable based on priest availability and the ability to financially support vital ministry and operations. Considering the size and scope of ministry and facilities in the grouping, uniting as two parishes in three worship sites was deemed most viable.
- Hosting the regular schedule of Masses at three locations (Our Lady of Mercy, Resurrection, St. Edward) provides the framework for most effectively utilizing our resources.
- Dividing Immaculate Heart of Mary between the two parishes rather than wholly uniting IHM to either St. Edward or Our Lady of Mercy offers a path to honor the likely way in which parishioners will move.

Next Steps

- The two parishes will embark upon the next phase of the renewal process Operations Transition followed by “Building the New Reality,” 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.