



Jesus Christ calls us to constantly renew His Church. *Renew My Church* is the Archdiocese of Chicago's response to His call and our invitation for renewal.

### **Feedback on Initial Scenario Considerations**

There are scenario considerations for how the parishes could be organized differently from today – possibilities to bring together resources and leadership to enable new methods for carrying out our mission in the grouping. The scenarios refer to a united canonical parish: a model in which two or more current parishes become one parish – with one pastor, budget, staff, Finance Council, etc. – but that can have multiple active church worship sites.

Please complete the feedback form on the reverse of this handout and turn into your Grouping Feedback and Discernment Team (GFDT). Thank you!

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### **Grouping information – unique characteristics:**

- The Redemptorist community owns the property of St. Michael Parish, and;
  - The Vincentian community owns the property of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.
  - All scenarios under consideration will require continuing conversation over time among the archdiocese, Redemptorist community, and Vincentian community.
  - Additionally, Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph experienced a canonical change in 2016 when they officially united as one parish with two worship sites.
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These are initial scenarios that the GFDT is considering for feedback to Cardinal Cupich. **These may be modified or adjusted based on parishioner feedback and further discussions among the GFDT.**

**St. Josaphat and ICSJ Schools both remain in their current structures in all scenarios:**

#### Archdiocesan Initial Scenario A:

St. Michael, St. Vincent de Paul, and ICSJ each remain in their current canonical structures.

St. Josaphat and St. Teresa of Avila unite to form a new canonical parish with both worship sites remaining open and one full-time resident pastor. Uniting St. Josaphat and St. Teresa of Avila as one canonical parish would respond to the declining number of priests available in the archdiocese to serve as pastors. This would also provide an underlying structure for St. Josaphat and St. Teresa of Avila to most effectively share resources and evaluate how to reduce auxiliary building infrastructure.

#### Alternative Scenario:

For a period of three years, all parishes in the grouping retain their canonical status and each have a pastor. During this time, active collaboration among the parishes – either all five, or as two sub-groups of Lincoln Park and Old Town – takes place. For example, shared ministry in terms of RCIA, religious education, marriage and baptism preparation, adult education and formation, youth ministry and young adult ministry takes place. Instead of each parish having its own ministry, the pastors, in consultation with staff and parishioners, determine how best to share resources. This could result in cost savings for the parishes and break down silos between the parish communities.

In addition, the parishes actively collaborate together on the "Phase 5" plan of evangelization to engage Catholics who are already present in our area. There is no need to wait until new development takes place since, according to Census data provided by the archdiocese, there are already 18,000 Catholics within our parish boundaries, of which only 3,000 attend Mass.

This additional time would allow parishes to complete capital campaigns and address maintenance needs.

At the end of three years, we re-evaluate. If things are not moving in a positive direction, we revisit possibilities and provide input to the archdiocese to make a decision.

