



## Schaumburg – Hoffman Estates Renew My Church Update: January 2023

### Discernment Process

Church of the Holy Spirit, St. Hubert, St. Marcelline and St. Matthew 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 structure for the area.

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 Grob are grateful to Fr. Thomas, Fr. Scherschel, Fr. Bury, Fr. Glab 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.

**The parishes will be structured as two parishes, with expectations that the pastors and leadership teams will continue the collaboration that has already begun across Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates.**

- **Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Marcelline will unite as one parish effective July 1, 2023.**
  - 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.
  - Church of the Holy Spirit will formally be designated as the parish church where the united parish's sacramental records will be kept.
  - Fr. Jeremy Thomas will serve as pastor of the newly unified parish.
  - The local community will discern possibilities for the permanent name of the united parish, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich. Each church retains its name.
- **St. Hubert and St. Matthew will unite as one parish, effective July 1, 2023.**
  - 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. Hubert will formally be designated as the parish church where the united parish's sacramental records will be kept.
  - Fr. Mike Scherschel will serve as pastor of the newly unified parish.
  - There are no changes to St. Hubert School as a result of the unification of parishes.
  - The local community will discern possibilities for the permanent name of the united parish, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich. Each church retains its name.

### Rationale

- The grouping team understood that changes may be needed eventually but advocated for additional time to continue the work of renewal before activating any structural changes. The RMC Commission and Presbyteral Council reviewed the grouping team's feedback and additional data (such as financial summaries and parish trends) and, based on previous experience across the archdiocese, recommended moving forward at this time. Earlier RMC structural discernment has proven that if there is a question about future parish viability, it has been better to move forward sooner rather than delaying unification.
- If structural changes would be recommended by the RMC Commission and Presbyteral Council, the grouping team discerned the best structure for the future would be the two united parishes that will form on July 1, 2023.



## **Rationale, continued**

- In each uniting parish, parish leadership will review how best to use the parish's ministry spaces to meet the parish's needs. Two campuses within each parish offer flexibility for ministry scheduling.
- Within the union of Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Marcelline, continuing the strong history of bilingual ministry incorporating all cultures of the parish will be an area of focus through the transition process.
- Through the discernment process, there were conversations about how to support St. Hubert School across the whole grouping. With the future structure being two parishes, the leadership of the two parishes will continue conversations about how to support Catholic school education in the area through St. Hubert 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.