

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



RENEW MY CHURCH

Parish Conversation 2

St. Gertrude Parish

Sunday, August 30

Hopes for This Afternoon

- **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.**



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.



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.*



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.*



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*



Why are we here?

We are called



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



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



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.***



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)

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**

Scenario terms to keep in mind

Parish =

The people / community / organization

Church =

The sacred space where we worship - Building.



Possible Scenarios

“We Gather as people who await the movement and action of the Spirit in Renew My Church...”



Notes for clarification and consideration

- These initial scenarios intend to put on the table as many creative possibilities to best use buildings for making disciples, building communities, and inspiring witness.
- In any scenario with two or more parishes uniting, one of the churches must be designated the parish church where the sacramental records for the parish would be kept.
- These scenarios focus on the parish structures. NCA's structure is not explicitly included in the scenarios.



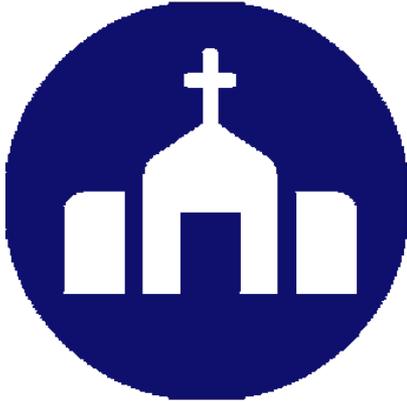
Possibility affecting all scenarios: St. Ignatius as a “Mission Center”

- An option currently being explored that affects all scenarios is a “Mission Center” on the St. Ignatius campus.
- The vision is for Loyola University to purchase / long-term lease a portion of or the whole campus at St. Ignatius.
- Loyola U would re-purpose or replace existing buildings for the Mission Center.
- Depending on the parish structure emerging from this process, the neighboring parish(es) would collaborate in the work of the Mission Center.
- How St. Ignatius Church building would or would not be used by the parish(es) and Mission Center could depend on each of the scenarios we will now review and on which your grouping will provide feedback in the coming weeks. It is possible the Jesuit community at Loyola U could collaborate with the parish(es) to support 1 English Mass and 1 Spanish Mass on a weekend.



Rogers Park Edgewater Grouping

Current Structure



**St.
Gertrude**



St. Ignatius



St. Jerome



Parish Scenario 1: 1 parish, 2 Sunday worship centers

All 3 parishes
unite as one
parish.



St. Gertrude and **St. Jerome** Churches are the Sunday worship centers of the new parish.



St. Ignatius ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass.

If the Mission Center on St. Ignatius campus proceeds, the new parish would collaborate on ministry with Loyola U at the Mission Center.



Parish Scenario 2: 1 parish, 2 Sunday worship centers

All 3 parishes
unite as one
parish.



St. Gertrude and **St. Ignatius** Churches are the Sunday worship centers of the new parish.



St. Jerome ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass and moves toward formal closure.

If the Mission Center on St. Ignatius campus proceeds, the new parish would collaborate on ministry with Loyola U at the Mission Center.



Parish Scenario 3: 1 parish, 2 Sunday worship centers

All 3 parishes
unite as one
parish.



St. Jerome and **St. Ignatius** Churches are the Sunday worship centers of the new parish.



St. Gertrude ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass and moves toward formal closure.

If the Mission Center on St. Ignatius campus proceeds, the new parish would collaborate on ministry with Loyola U at the Mission Center.



Parish Scenario 4: 2 parishes, 2 Sunday worship centers



St. Jerome serves as the parish church and Sunday worship center.

St. Ignatius ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass.



St. Gertrude remains in its current parish structure.

The two parishes share one business and facility operations team. If the Mission Center on St. Ignatius campus proceeds, the two parishes would collaborate on ministry with each other and Loyola U at the Mission Center.



Parish Scenario 5: 2 parishes, 3 Sunday worship centers



St. Jerome and **St. Ignatius**
both continue to hold a
regular Sunday Mass
schedule.



St. Gertrude
remains in its
current parish
structure.

The two parishes share one
business and facility operations
team. If the Mission Center on St.
Ignatius campus proceeds, the two
parishes would collaborate on
ministry with each other and Loyola
U at the Mission Center.



Parish Scenario 6: 2 parishes, 2 Sunday worship centers



St. Jerome remains in its current parish structure.

The two parishes share one business and facility operations team. If the Mission Center on St. Ignatius campus proceeds, the two parishes would collaborate on ministry with each other and Loyola U at the Mission Center.



St. Gertrude serves as the parish church and Sunday worship center.

St. Ignatius ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass.



Alternative Parish Scenario - 7: 1 parish, 2 Sunday worship centers

All 3 parishes
unite as one
parish.



St. Ignatius Church is
the one Sunday
worship center of the
new parish.

St. Gertrude and **St.
Jerome** cease to have
regularly scheduled
Sunday Mass and
moves toward formal
closure.

NCA would move to
St. Ignatius campus

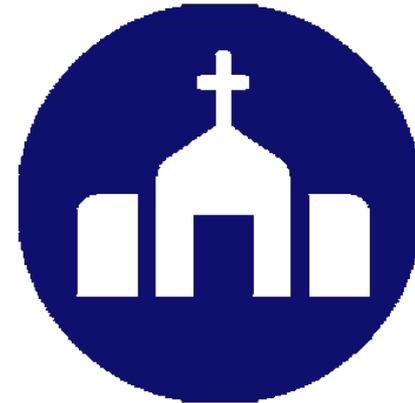
The Loyola Mission
Center proposal's
viability in this
scenario depends
on space availability
on the St. Ignatius
campus.



Alternative Parish Scenario - 8: 2 parishes, 2 Sunday worship centers



St. Jerome remains in its current parish structure.



St. Gertrude remains in its current parish structure.

St. Ignatius ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass and moves toward formal closure. Assets would be split between St. Jerome and St. Gertrude. Parishioners join whichever parish they choose.

This scenario considers if the Mission Center does not proceed.

Alternative Parish Scenario - 9: 2 parishes, 2 Sunday worship centers



St. Jerome remains in its current parish structure.



St. Ignatius remains in its current parish structure.

St. Gertrude ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass and moves toward formal closure. Assets would be split between St. Jerome and St. Ignatius. Parishioners join whichever parish they choose.

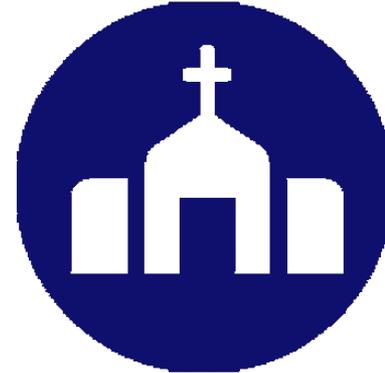
This scenario considers if the Mission Center does not proceed.



Alternative Parish Scenario - 10: 2 parishes, 2 Sunday worship centers



St. Ignatius remains in its parish structure.



St. Gertrude remains in its current parish structure.

St. Jerome ceases to have regularly scheduled Sunday Mass and moves toward formal closure. Assets would be split between St. Ignatius and St. Gertrude. Parishioners join whichever parish they choose.

This scenario considers if the Mission Center does not proceed.

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**

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 principles 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



Questions???



Feedback On Scenarios

Fill out a feedback form:

- Step 1:** Review the scenarios
- Step 2:** Answer the questions
- Step 3:** Turn in your feedback

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)

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

