

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



RENEW MY CHURCH
Parish Session #1

St. Gertrude's Catholic Church
August 16, 2020

Hopes for today

1. Be grounded in the overall vision of Renew My Church, the parish grouping rollout, and the process for Discernment and Decisions
 - ✓ We'll review the overall process and have a Q&A session

2. Begin to understand our grouping's current realities
 - ✓ You will be introduced to key realities to be considered
 - ✓ The Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team will report out what they have done at their meetings to date
 - ✓ More Q&A

Note: Scenarios will not be discussed until our next parish meeting.

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.

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



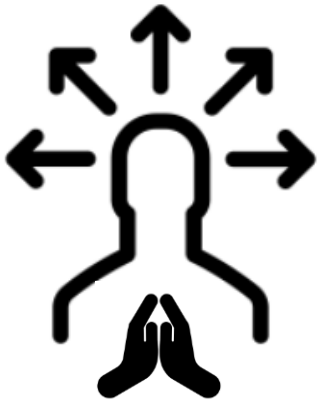
Overall goal for groupings

Build a renewed, vital, and sustainable Catholic presence for the good of all people in the collective communities within the grouping.

- What do we need to change structurally, given resource realities?
- How can we be more effective through collaboration?



Parish Grouping Process



Discernment and decisions

Communities prayerfully discern the right parish structures for future vitality



Operations transition

Establish a strong, sustainable parish financial and operational foundation



Building our new reality

Establish a strong parish ministerial foundation to achieve our mission

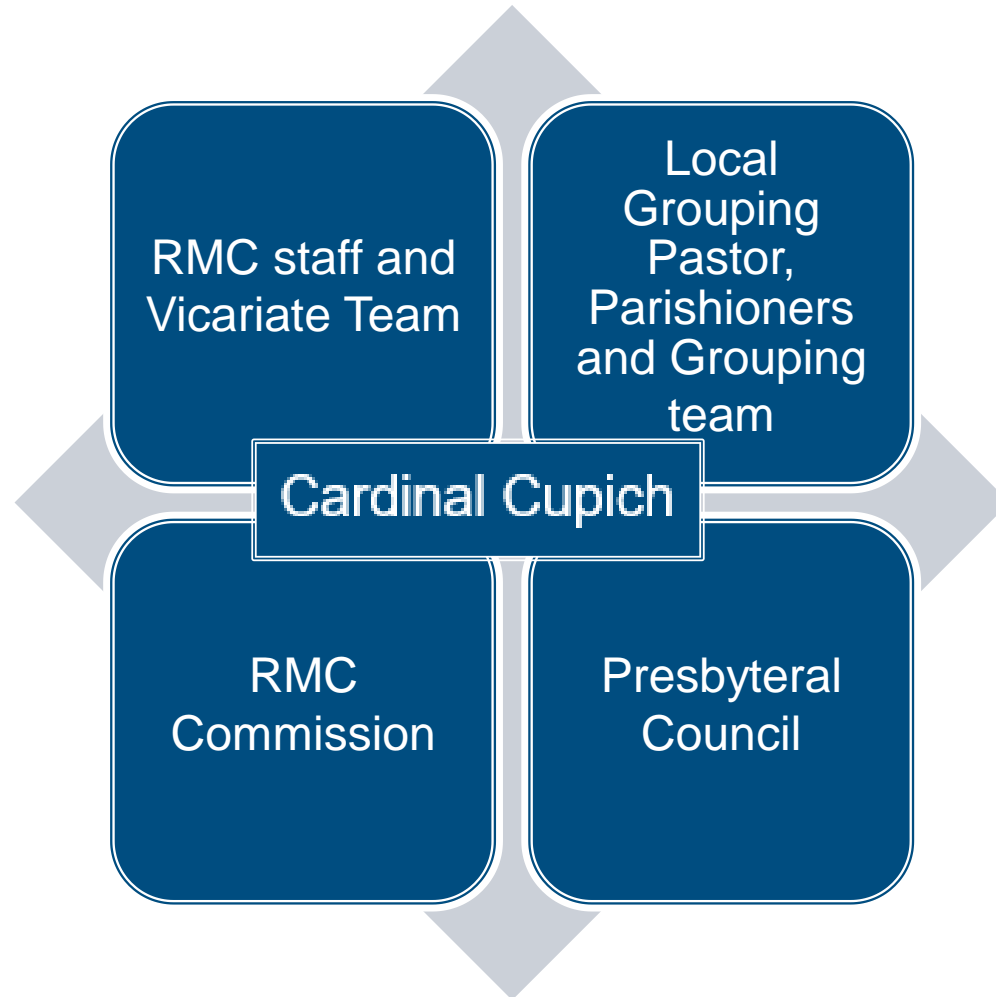


Objectives of this phase of the process

- **Connect to the larger RMC vision** and begin building toward a culture of evangelization
- **Build relationships** across communities within the grouping
- Understand the **current realities** in the local community
- Evaluate **structural options** for moving forward
- Tangibly: **Provide the RMC Commission with a feedback report** to help inform a recommendation for Cardinal Cupich



How will structural decisions be made?



Two types of meetings through the process

Grouping conversations

- Discern scenario feedback
- Incorporates feedback or insights heard at the parishes
- Submit a Feedback Summary Report to the Commission

Grouping Feedback & Discernment Team

Parish conversations

- Enable input-gathering from the broader parish
- Keep the parish informed about what is being discussed

Parishioners, staff, school families, GFDT



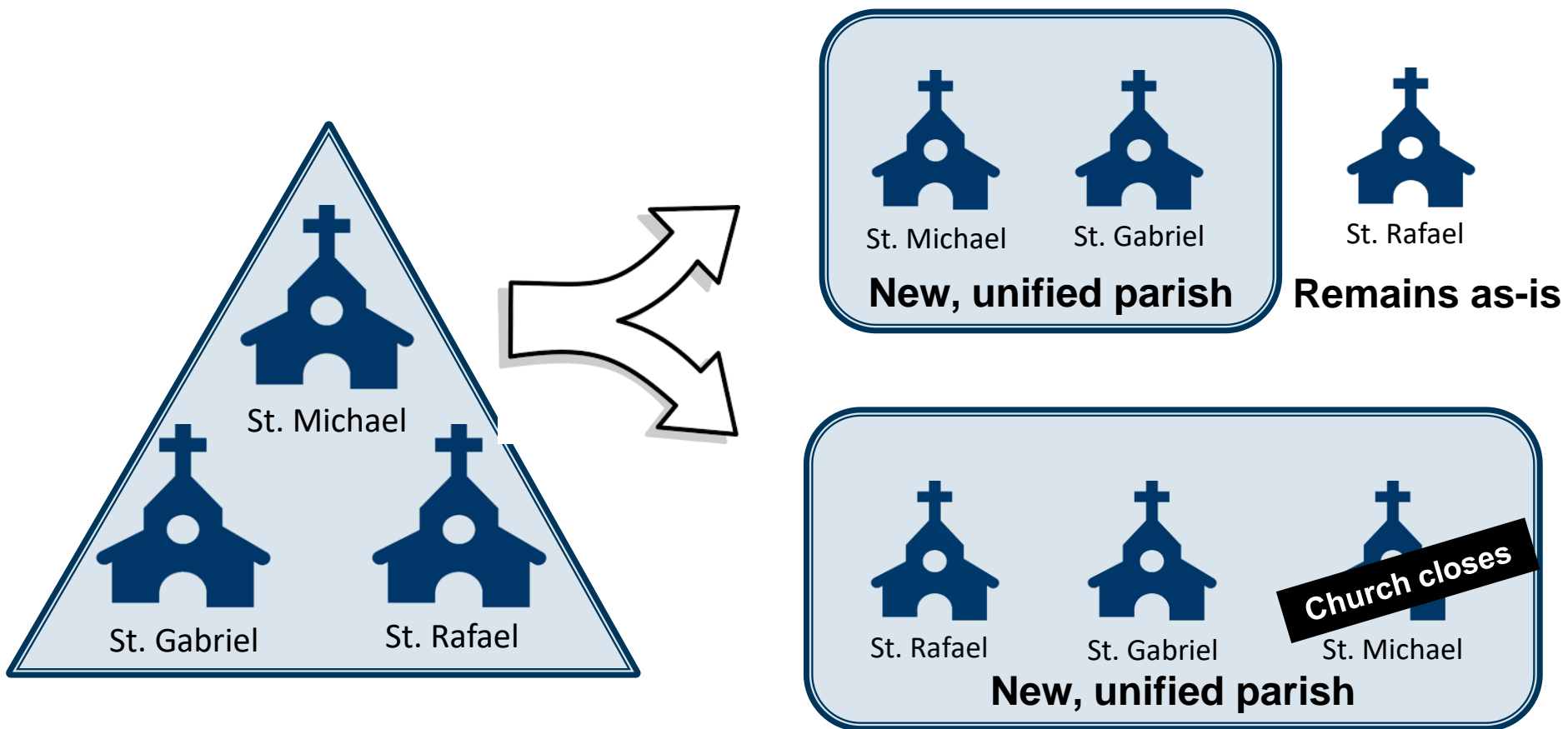
What are scenarios?

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)

Possibilities ...



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



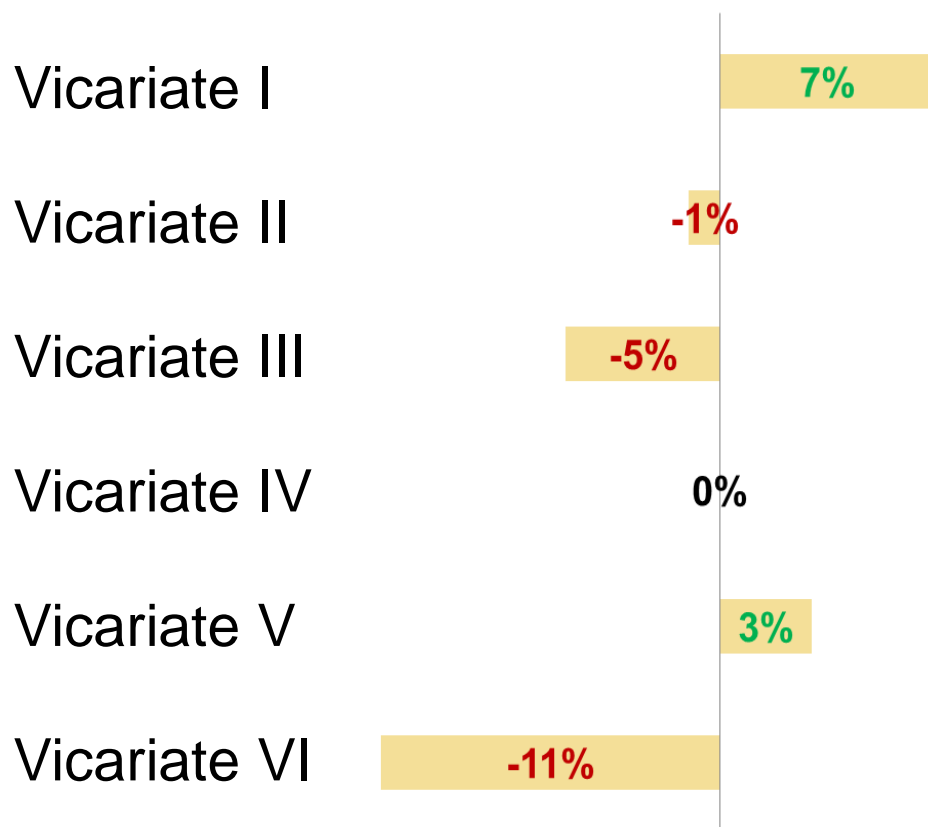
Why structural renewal?



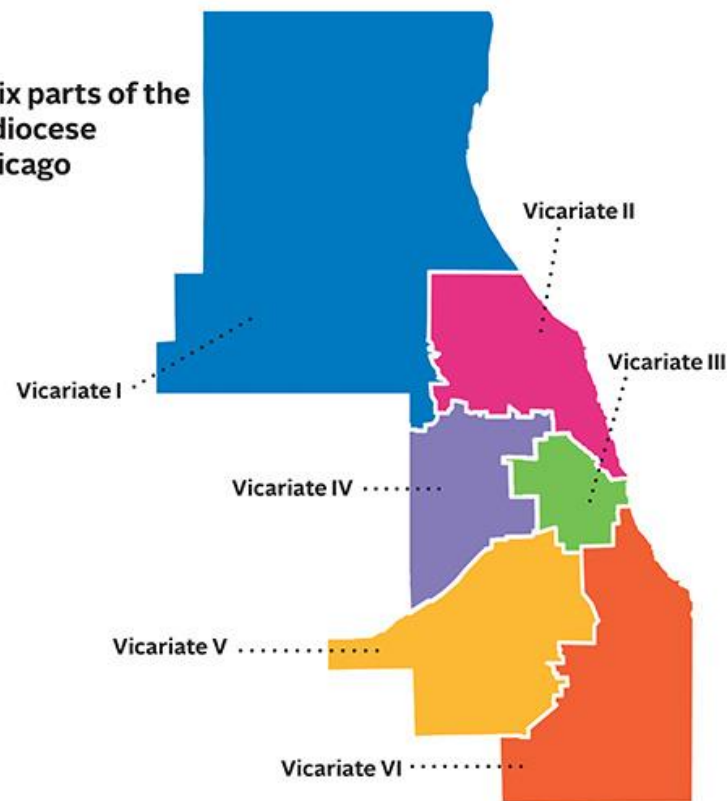
Our model of parish life was built for a different time.

Population Shift

Percent change by vicariate, 2000 to 2014

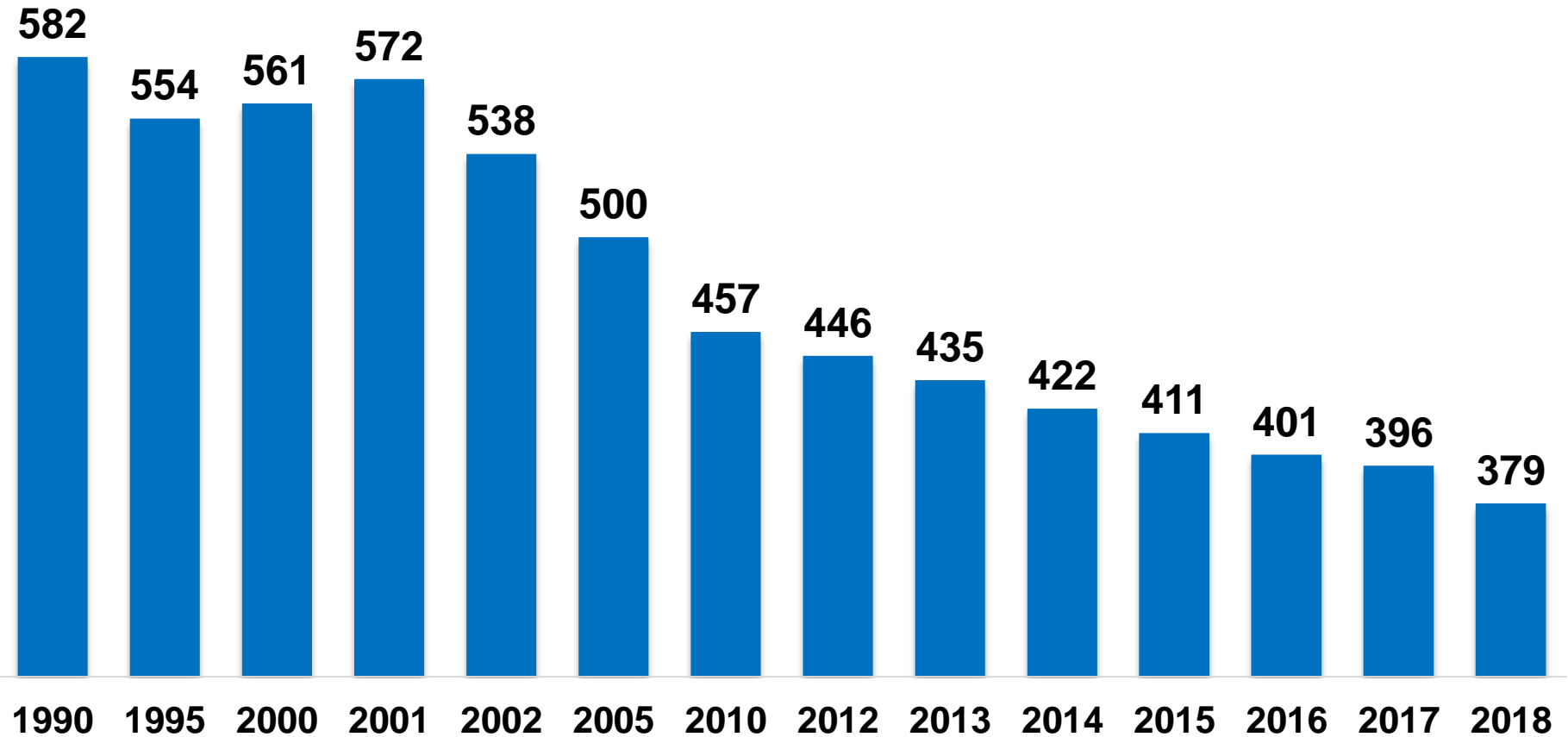


The six parts of the Archdiocese of Chicago

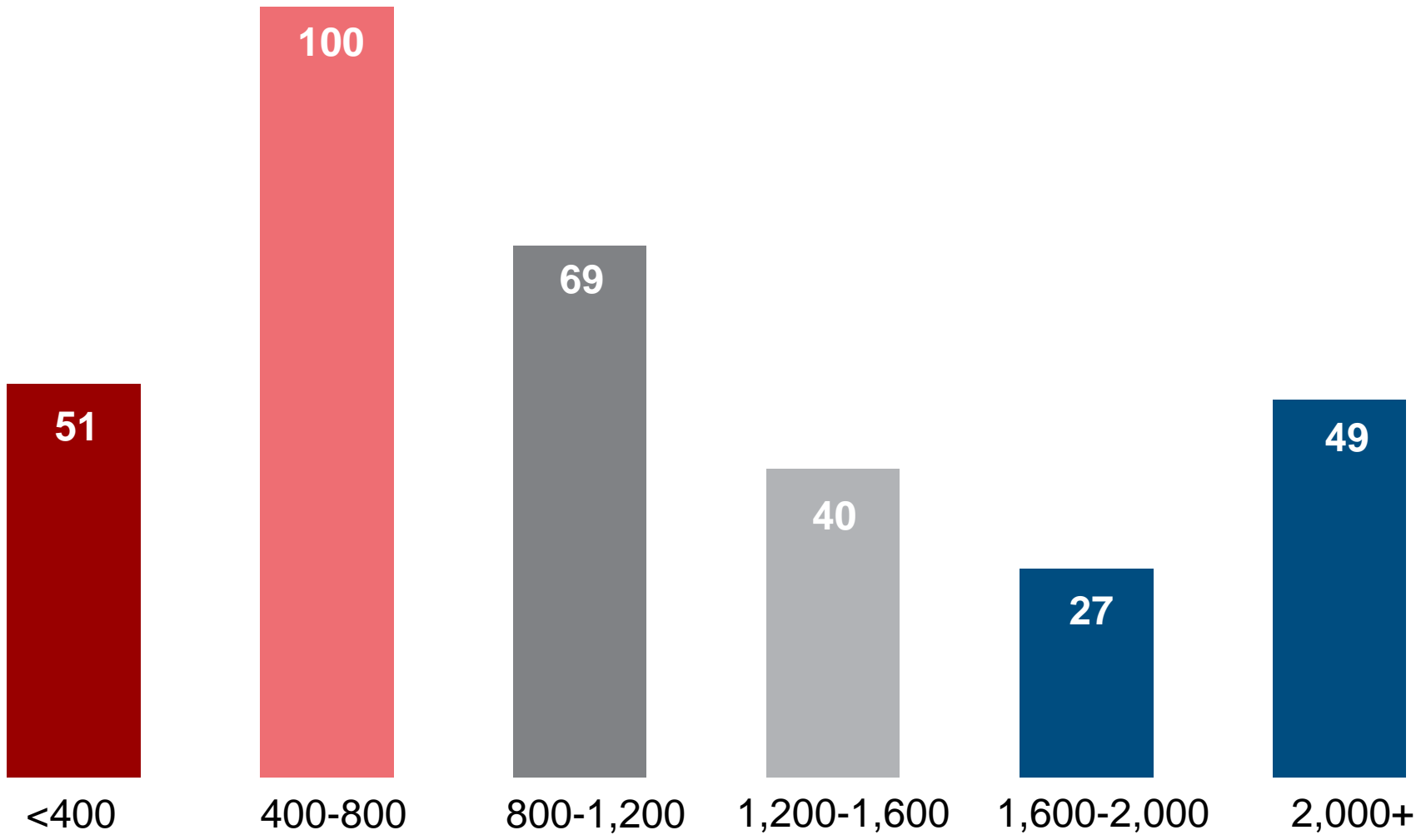


Mass attendance (October Count) has declined significantly

Thousands

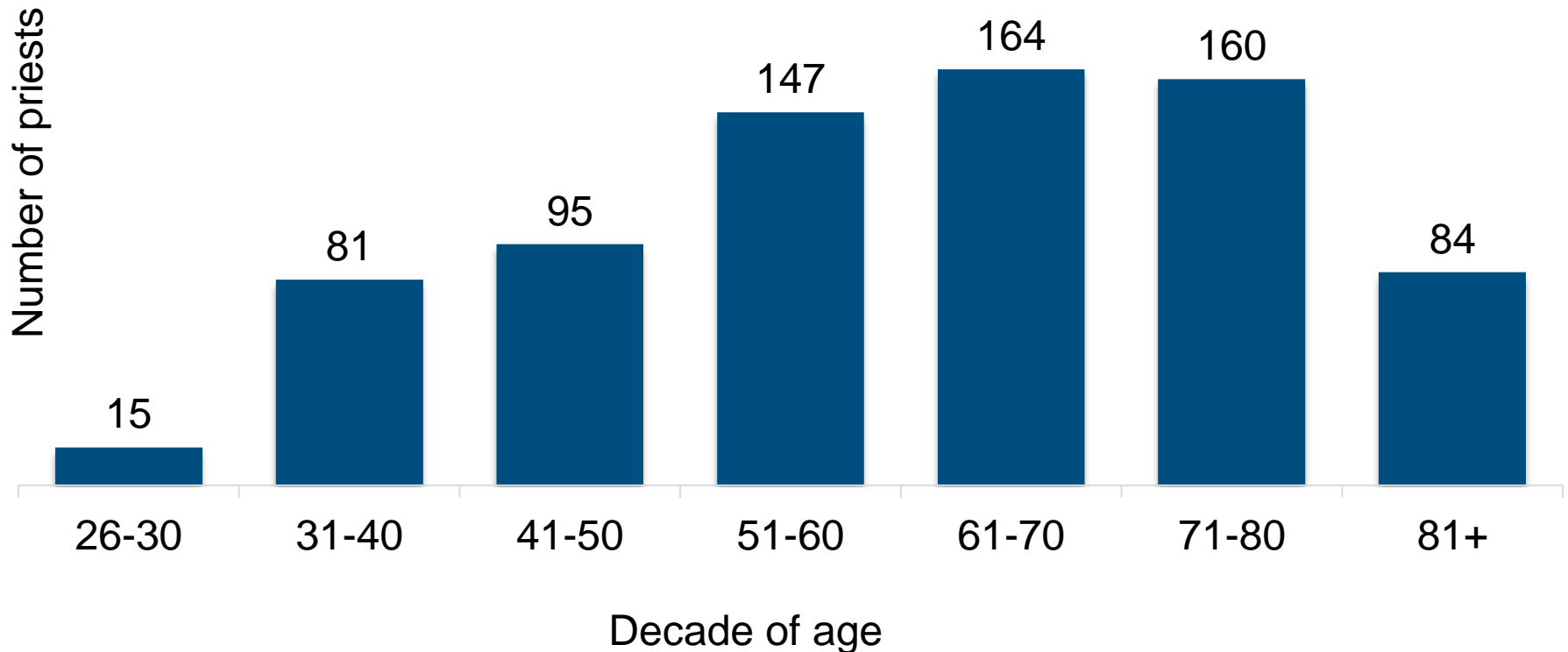


Parishes by October Count



Nearly 200 priests to retire soon

Archdiocesan priests by age, 2019





Invest in ministry to make disciples.



Invest in people to build community.



Invest in ways that inspire witness.

Together, as One, Local Church.



Why spiritual renewal?



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Questions???



Current realities

Before we can begin to consider grouping scenarios, we need to:

- Pause and consider current realities in our national Church, Archdiocesan Church, and in our grouping and individual parishes.
- Identify our ministerial and operational strengths and challenges.

Current realities video

Link [here](#).



Edgewater Rogers Park Grouping Key Data

	St. Gertrude	St. Ignatius	St. Jerome	Overall	Archdiocese of Chicago, median
Weekend Mass attendance, n*	733	930	1,565	3,228	N/A
Sacraments					
a) Baptism, n	42	79	58	179	46
b) First Communion, n	37	11	85	133	46
c) Weddings, n	4	64**	4	72	8
d) Funerals,	32	13	13	58	29
Annual revenue, \$	\$831,291	\$377,842	\$646,850	\$1,955,983	N/A
Savings, \$	\$311,387	\$10,267	\$88,643	\$410,297	N/A
(Debt, \$)	\$0	(\$190,328)	\$0	(\$190,328)	N/A
Projected building maintenance costs through 2027, \$***	~\$1,100,000	>\$2,300,000	>\$3,00,000	>\$6,400,000	N/A

*Based on October 2019 count.

**Includes weddings at Madonna della Strada.

***Estimates based on 2018 evaluations.

N/A: Not available.



Making Disciples, Building Communities, Inspiring Witness

Keeping before us our mission imperatives, we answer the questions:

- *What are current strengths within our grouping?*
- *What are challenges that present opportunities to unite resources and minister in renewed ways?*



Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

Strengths identify...

- Effective mission (ministry, outreach and community)
- Ability to grow
- Operating budgets, buildings and resources that support current and future sustainability



Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

Challenges identify ...

- Needs to strengthen mission (ministry, outreach and community)
- Ways to address current challenges for growth
- Ways to better align resources (finances, buildings) to invest in ministry

Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

Strengths

1) Richness in ethnic and economic diversity, including welcoming of LGBTQ people and families.

(e.g. St. Ignatius shrines)

2) Strong, committed, joyful, and trusted pastoral staffs who provide a myriad of care and services. Sacramental life and faith formation ministries of some parishes are also strong.

3) Northside Catholic Academy is valued by all three parishes who jointly support it.



Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

Strengths

4) Social justice as a priority with important outreach ministries.

(e.g. pantry, senior care, interfaith dialogue groups, hot lunches during the pandemic and refugee support).

5) Loyola University's presence in the neighborhood.

6) All three parishes are full of multi-generational families – and the parishes value community building and socializing.



Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

Strengths

7) COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice movements may provide an opportunity to reach out to individuals and families in search of a diverse, justice-minded, spiritual home.

(e.g. St. Ignatius retreats on anti-racism/spirituality)

8) Densely populated neighborhoods well-served by public transportation with reasonable parking.



Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

Challenges

- 1) Creating community within our diversity, including across Spanish- and English-speaking communities, and affordability of NCA.
- 2) Stronger children, youth, and teen ministries needed, including progression through Confirmation.
- 3) Structural and systemic social, economic, and race/ethnic barriers to community building in the Edgewater and Rogers Park.



Our Grouping's Strengths and Challenges

Challenges

- 4) Collections and fundraising are low in some parishes, resulting in serious financial challenges.
- 5) High maintenance costs of our beautiful churches.
- 6) Some Grouping parishes are strong in some benchmarks (e.g. finances or Mass attendance) and weak in others. This is both a strength and a challenge and points to the need for increased collaboration and shared ministries.



Questions or Comments

Strengths and Challenges

What comes next?

- Pick up a copy of the data shared.
- **NEXT PARISH CONVERSATION**
- DATE: August 30, 2020
 - Receive draft of conversation-starting structural scenarios
 - Provide feedback on the scenarios

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

