



January 30, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Hope,

On January 26th, the Renew My Church grouping met together as 6 parishes for the first time. At this meeting there were representatives from Our Lady of Hope, Mary Seat of Wisdom, Our Lady of Ransom, St. Juliana, Immaculate Conception, and St. Paul of the Cross. The goal of this meeting was to ensure that each member of the grouping team had a clear understanding of Renew My Church and their role in the process, as well as an opportunity to get to know members of the other parishes.

During the meeting we reviewed data of the Archdiocese, as a whole, to better understand the need for Renew My Church. We also looked at information about church attendance, sacramental life, and financial data for each of the parishes in our grouping. This helped us to see how we could work as a group to better serve the needs of all of our parishes, both spiritually and structurally.

When considering the Structural Renewal of the grouping, we learned about the 3 main movements that we will move through to ensure our parishes use their structures (buildings and finances) most effectively. These three movements are:

1. Discernment and Decision - Determine the right parish structures for future vitality
2. Operations Transition - Establishing a strong and sustainable financial and operational foundation
3. Building the new reality - Establishing a strong parish ministerial foundation to achieve the Church's mission.

During these next few months we will spend our meeting time in the first movement, prayerfully considering configurations of the parishes in our grouping, and identifying areas for collaboration. After getting to know the other parishes and taking into consideration current realities in the communities of our grouping, we will evaluate potential structural options for moving forward and provide that feedback to Cardinal Cupich.

As shared in the previous update about our Renew my Church groupings, **none of the parish churches in our grouping will close**. Because of this, the grouping is going to be split for upcoming meetings into two smaller groups, so that parishes can focus on the areas that make sense for their current situation. In our small group, we will be working to determine ways to most effectively serve and evangelize both our current parishioners and the Catholic community in our area.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Tom Wetzel at thomaswetzel@ameritech.net as the team contact person.

Please continue to keep our team and all the parishioners of all six parishes in your prayers.

Respectfully,

Our Lady of Hope Renew My Church Grouping Team