



Please send your feedback or ideas to:

renew@stbarbarachicago.org

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.

We Need Your Input

Below is a summary of where we are today, but much more will be shared in our next parish meeting on **Wednesday, March 14th at 6:30 pm** – please come to learn more and share your feedback and input.

Process Overview

Renewal requires envisioning, planning, and new means to bring Jesus Christ to others. There are nearly 100 groupings of parishes and schools across the Archdiocese. Each grouping will engage in a process to address necessary questions of structure, how to work together across communities within each grouping, and to establish a strong foundation for vitality through focused evangelization and faith formation efforts. Supporting our parishes with the best structures enables us to breathe renewed life into our efforts to make disciples, build communities, and inspire witness.

Initial Scenarios

To initiate discussion, the Archdiocese has offered our grouping a set of initial scenarios that show potential models of how parishes and schools could be configured in the future. These initial scenarios, which will be shared in detail at our next parish meeting, are conversation starters only. **No decisions have been made.**

These scenarios reflect our grouping's local realities using a set of foundational principles / criteria to evaluate how a structure would support vitality and ensure viability, such as:

- **Ministerial and spiritual needs of the parish:** To ensure quality resources for worship, pastoral care, religious education, and evangelization, parishes ordinarily will have a justly-paid, professionally-trained staff team. On average, a parish will need a minimum **operating revenue of \$500,000** (excluding rental income) to support staffing and other operating expenses. **Operating revenue of \$750,000 or more (excluding rental income) is strongly preferred** to invest in important ministry roles.
- **Parishioner count and Mass attendance:** Based on the projection of pastors available across the Archdiocese, parishes ordinarily need a **minimum of 800 parishioners** attending Mass each weekend to be assigned a **full-time resident pastor**, with consideration given to particular local and cultural circumstances; a **minimum of 1,200 parishioners attending weekend Mass for long-term vitality**.
- **Balanced workloads for priests:** It is critical that our pastors are supported with the resources and teams to support sacramental life, pastoral care, and parish administration.
- **Parish financial stability and facilities:** Parish financial stability and adequate, accessible and safe facilities with capacity for growth and affordable ongoing repair/maintenance.
- **School vitality and financial stability:** A key measure is the **potential to enroll a minimum of 240 students in PK-8**, considering area demographics and parish student population; as well as ensuring quality education, strong student social development, and sustainable operations.

On the other side of this page are the initial scenarios to begin the conversation for our grouping. Our grouping consists of St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church and School, including the Archdiocese of Chicago's Center for Chinese Apostolate, All Saints – St. Anthony Parish, Santa Lucia – Santa Maria Incononata Parish and Santa Lucia School, St. Jerome Croatian Parish and St. Jerome School, St. Barbara Parish and School, St. Mary of Perpetual Help Parish, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Bridgeport Catholic Academy, and St. Gabriel Parish and School.

There are five initial scenarios for how the parishes and schools 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.



Listed below are the initial scenarios to begin the conversation. We are asked to provide feedback on these initial scenarios and propose alternatives in the upcoming weeks.

Initial Scenario A: 3 parishes

- Parish 1: St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church, All Saints – St. Anthony, St. Barbara, and St. Mary of Perpetual Help would unite to form one new canonical parish.
- Parish 2: St. Jerome Croatian and Santa Lucia would unite to form one new canonical parish.
- St. Therese Chinese Catholic School would continue to explore expansion to an additional campus. Santa Lucia School would close for the 2019-20 school year. Parishes 1 and 2 would collectively support 1 school located at either St. Barbara or St. Jerome.
- Parish 3: Nativity of Our Lord and St. Gabriel would unite to form one new canonical parish. Bridgeport Catholic Academy and St. Gabriel School would serve the new parish as the new parish evaluates the sustainability of continuing both schools. The parish would need to support any operating deficits driven by low enrollment.

Initial Scenario B: 4 parishes

- Parish 1: St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church, All Saints – St. Anthony, and Santa Lucia would unite to form one new canonical parish. Santa Lucia Church would close for worship. St. Therese Chinese Catholic School would serve as the parish school and continue to explore expansion to an additional campus. Santa Lucia School would close for the 2019-20 school year.
- Parish 2: St. Barbara and St. Mary of Perpetual Help would unite to form one new canonical parish.
- Parish 3: St. Jerome Croatian would continue in its current canonical structure.
- Parishes 2 and 3 would collectively support 1 school located at either St. Barbara or St. Jerome.
- Parish 4: Nativity of Our Lord and St. Gabriel would unite to form one new canonical parish. Bridgeport Catholic Academy and St. Gabriel School would serve the new parish as the new parish evaluates the sustainability of continuing both schools. The parish would need to support any operating deficits driven by low enrollment.

Initial Scenario C: 2 parishes

- Parish 1: St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church, All Saints – St. Anthony, Santa Lucia, St. Barbara, St. Mary of Perpetual Help, Nativity of Our Lord, and St. Gabriel would all unite to form one new canonical parish. All Saints – St. Anthony and Santa Lucia Churches would close for worship.
- Parish 2: St. Jerome Croatian Parish would continue in its current canonical structure and focus on serving as a center of Croatian Catholic culture.
- St. Therese Chinese Catholic School would continue to explore expansion to an additional campus.
- St. Barbara School would serve as the school for the northern part of Bridgeport. St. Jerome and Santa Lucia Schools would close for the 2019-20 school year.
- Bridgeport Catholic Academy would serve as the school for the southern part of Bridgeport and Canaryville. St. Gabriel School would close for the 2019-20 school year.

Initial Scenario D: 4 parishes

- Parish 1: St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church and All Saints – St. Anthony would unite to form one new canonical parish. St. Therese Chinese Catholic School would continue exploring expansion to an additional campus.
- Parish 2: St. Mary of Perpetual Help and St. Barbara would unite to form one new canonical parish.
- Parish 3: St. Jerome Croatian and Santa Lucia would unite to form one new canonical parish.
- Parishes 2 and 3 would collectively support 1 school located at either St. Barbara or St. Jerome.
- Parish 4: Nativity of Our Lord and St. Gabriel would unite to form one new canonical parish. Bridgeport Catholic Academy and St. Gabriel School would serve the new parish as the new parish evaluates the sustainability of continuing both schools. The parish would need to support any operating deficits driven by low enrollment.

Initial Scenario E: 3 parishes

- Parish 1: St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church, All Saints – St. Anthony, and St. Barbara would unite to form one new canonical parish.
- Parish 2: St. Jerome Croatian and Santa Lucia would unite to form one new canonical parish.
- St. Therese Chinese Catholic School would continue to explore expansion at an additional campus.
- Parishes 1 and 2 would collectively support 1 school located at either St. Barbara or St. Jerome.
- Parish 3: St. Mary of Perpetual Help, Nativity of Our Lord and St. Gabriel would unite to form one new canonical parish. The newly formed parish would explore the sustainability of two schools and whether to move to one school at the Bridgeport Catholic Academy site. The parish would need to support any operating deficits driven by low enrollment.



Your input is needed

Again, these initial scenarios are conversation starters only. No decisions have been made. We are asked to provide feedback on the initial scenarios from the Archdiocese and propose alternative scenarios and configuration models.

Please come to our next parish meeting on **Wednesday, March 14th at 6:30 pm** to learn more and share your feedback and input. You can email your comments, ideas and input to renew@stbarbarachicago.org