



Archdiocese of Chicago
Renew My Church
Evanston Grouping



To all of our brothers and sisters of the Catholic Community in Evanston,

As the priests of the parishes and Sheil Center we want to offer our gratitude to the members of the Evanston Grouping Feedback and Discernment Team for their dedication and service since September, 2021. Their prayerful and thoughtful deliberations provided a careful assessment of the current realities for Catholic life throughout Evanston. As you may recall their proposal was presented to the Renew My Church Executive Commission in early December, 2021.

During the past few weeks, Blase Cardinal Cupich, 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 our Evanston Grouping. We are grateful to the Cardinal for his engagement and confirmation of the following:

St. Mary and St. Nicholas will unite as one parish with two worship sites, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.

St. Athanasius and St. Joan of Arc will unite as one parish with two worship sites, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.

Pope John XXIII School, St. Athanasius Parochial School and The Academy at St. Joan of Arc Parish will continue in their respective structural format and governance.

There are no structural changes at the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University.

To assist with this period of transition we are happy to welcome Meghan Schmidt as the Evanston parishes transition Project Manager. Meghan has already assisted parishes of the Archdiocese during this part of the RMC timeline and will be a valuable asset to the work of unifying the new parish structures.

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.

Again, we offer our Profound gratitude to all involved in the process to date, and our continuing prayers for all those who will take up the next phase of renewal, sharing faith and evangelizing those searching to know Jesus more deeply.

With you, disciples, for you priests,

Rev. Kenneth J. Anderson

Father Kevin McCray

Father Kenneth J. Anderson

Father Tom Baldonieri

Father Hernan Cuevas

Father Bradley Zamora