

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Most Rev. Mark A. Bartosic  
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago  
Episcopal Vicar Vicariate II

1641 W. Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, Illinois 60614 U.S.A.  
tel 773.388.8670 fax 773.388.8676  
[mbartosic@archchicago.org](mailto:mbartosic@archchicago.org)



July 20, 2020

Dear Pastors,

First, please know of my prayers for you and your parishioners during this difficult time.

I write to you to share a change in the timeline for the Renew My Church discernment process, which directly impacts your parish and the neighboring parishes in your grouping. Given the challenges posed by the pandemic, including the temporary closure of churches across the Archdiocese, the RMC launch timeline is being re-evaluated for each grouping in the Archdiocese.

Your grouping will begin to engage the RMC discernment process regarding the future parish structures this Fall 2020. A specific schedule for local conversations will be set in the coming weeks. For parishes that had not been planning to actively engage in the RMC process this year, I know this is a significant shift. Your planning for the 2020-21 has already been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the significant work required to re-open our churches. The Renew My Church staff, the Vicariate II Team, and I are committed to supporting you throughout the upcoming process.

While the first part of the RMC process will focus on the possible structural and business changes necessary for our community, it is important to keep in mind these changes are necessary to prepare us up to focus on spiritual and ministerial renewal moving forward. Renew My Church is about making disciples, building communities, and inspiring witness of our faith. To most effectively work on those three imperatives, we need a sustainable organizational and facility structure.

## ***What's next?***

You will receive more information to share with your parishioners in the coming weeks about what to expect of the Renew My Church grouping discernment process. The Renew My Church staff will work with you on an appropriate schedule for how best to engage the discernment process in your grouping.

We do not know what the outcomes of the discernment process will be, but we do know that things cannot remain as they are. We also know the Lord remains with us, and we will be strengthened by keeping each other in prayer. You remain in my prayers. Please keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Mark A. Bartosic  
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