



## Reflections from Father Derek

### Renew My Church Announcement

As you know, *Renew My Church* (RMC) is the strategic initiative of the Archdiocese of Chicago to revitalize parishes in Cook and Lake Counties. Every parish in the Archdiocese is part of a “grouping”: a cluster of parishes that plans how this renewal will look in its particular community. There are roughly 100 groupings throughout the Archdiocese and groupings have been activated since 2016. “Activation” is the commencement of the process whereby a committee consisting of priests and parishioners from each parish, along with Archdiocesan personnel, discern possible structural, operational, and ministerial changes for the grouping.

Our grouping, as you may recall, consists of the following parishes: Mary, Seat of Wisdom (Park Ridge), Saint Paul of the Cross (Park Ridge), Saint Juliana (Chicago), Our Lady of Hope (Rosemont), Our Lady of Ransom (Niles), and Immaculate Conception (Chicago). **The Archdiocese has informed us that our grouping will be activated in February 2021 with the goal of implementing the new reality by July 1, 2021.**

We were originally scheduled to be activated either in late 2022 or early 2023. The adjusted timeline for us, and for all remaining groupings, is intended to accomplish both the need to address financial challenges posed by the pandemic and to move parishes forward to the phase of spiritual renewal more quickly than previously scheduled.

This brief letter is the first of more joint communications between us pastors as a sign of our mutual respect and collaboration with one another, as well as our desire to be transparent to you about this process. We have merely received, as of now, information about our activation, and we will be sure to communicate to you more details about timelines and strategies as we receive them.

This is an exciting time for the Catholic Church in the northwest side of Chicago and its suburbs! We are confident that with our communities working and praying together, Christ will be present and alive in the hearts of believers and that our Church will be strong for the future.

Please know of our gratitude for your dedication to the faith, along with our prayers for you during this difficult time in our world.

In Christ we are,

*Rev. Derek Ho*, Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish

*Rev. Britto Berchmans*, Saint Paul of the Cross Parish

*Rev. James Wallace*, Saint Juliana Parish

*Rev. Wojciech Oleksy*, Our Lady of Hope Parish

*Rev. Matthew Bozovsky*, Our Lady of Ransom Parish

*Rev. Matthew Heinrich*, Immaculate Conception Parish