

# Community Discernment and Planning Feedback Summary for the Little Italy Grouping

Submitted to the

*Renew My Church Standards and Recommendations Commission*

December 6, 2018

*Dear Commission Members,*

We are pleased to share with you this Feedback Summary for our Little Italy Grouping and look forward to discussing it with you on December 10th.

## OVERALL FEEDBACK SUMMARY

We recognized the unique ministries and building infrastructure of our grouping – two Archdiocesan parishes (with one located in a Jesuit-owned church), an Archdiocesan shrine, and a Newman Center. This led us to consider focusing on two sub-groupings – (a) the unique ministries of the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and the Newman Center and (b) the blending of Holy Family and Notre Dame.

Our overall feeling, given the scenarios offered, was that there was most opportunity and merit in the **B1, B2, and B3 scenarios, with many preferring B-1**. These scenarios position the Newman Center and the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii to remain independent to remain true to their unique ministries and provide opportunities for their specific areas of mission and evangelization while tying them more closely. These arrangements bring Holy Family and Notre Dame into a new parish structure, thereby combining financial resources, staffing, lay leadership and volunteers. We felt the Newman Center and Shrine should continue to develop cooperative evangelization programs utilizing each other's strengths and resources and to work more cohesively and collaboratively with the parishioners of Holy Family and Notre Dame. It was noted the Shrine is planning to one day have lay leadership in place eliminating the need for a dedicated priest.

Not without its issues, the uniting of Holy Family and Notre Dame was seen as a good way to share resources and continue to minister to both the African-American and Hispanic populations while allowing for growth due to the increasing population, including families, to the south of Holy Family and to the north of Notre Dame. Although currently the larger spaces of our historic churches are not at capacity, this will actually become an asset with the current and projected population growth in our neighborhood over the next five years. Determining which site(s) would remain open, closed or be the primary site requires further contemplation and we have provided a summary of these discussions in the attached documentation.

During our deliberations we created and then eliminated two alternative scenarios and came to believe that the B1, B2, and B3 scenarios, with many preferring B1, will better allow us to support Christ's mission utilizing our strengths in unique ministries, social justice, and rich history in the neighborhood welcoming diverse age, ethnic, and socio-economic groups to Christ's table.

## **OUR STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES**

### **Little Italy Grouping Strengths**

- Baptized Catholics play an important role in leadership and ministry in the parishes and two unique ministries, not as employees, but as dedicated members of their neighborhood churches.
- The neighborhood has a rich cultural, ethnic and geographic diversity open to growth and transformation.
- The parishioners are focused on various areas of social justice, such as feeding the hungry and preparation for the reception of the sacraments. They have a desire to learn about other areas of evangelization and reach out to the parish and local community using what they have learned to lead others to Jesus.
- The parishes continuously work toward providing liturgies and music which uplift the hearts of those who attend Mass and evoke in them a desire to worship and to deepen their relationship with Jesus and follow in his footsteps by bringing others to join them as active members of the parish family.
- There are complimentary ministries among the four entities which make up the Little Italy Grouping. Collaboration among the four allows members of the grouping to adequately meet the needs of the current population.

- The Little Italy neighborhood, including the parishes and the Shrine share a rich history. The long reaching positive impact of these on the population compels many former members of the neighborhood and new visitors to drive long distances each week to attend Mass at one of these churches.

### **Little Italy Grouping Challenges**

- An effective evangelization strategy is needed which will address the declining presence/participation in the parishes, the shrine and the Newman Center.
- The demographics of the neighborhood are changing. There is an exodus of families with school age children, a decline in the number of African Americans and an influx of more affluent individuals. Ways to plan accordingly for this demographic change will need to be explored.
- Efficient utilization of the historic, large church spaces, built for another time, challenge current creativity.

<b>Scenario A: Each of the parishes and institutions would remain as is, following a pastoral plan implemented and mutually supported by the four institutions.</b>		
<b>RENEW MY CHURCH ASPIRATION</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario challenge the grouping to move beyond maintaining current structures to invest a higher percentage of time and resources in ministry?</b></p> <p><b>How will this scenario support vitality and stability for the long-term (10+ years), considering demographic and parishioner trends?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since staffing patterns with four sites would be modest, the laity and the permanent deacons would assume more active roles.</li> <li>• This scenario encourages creative problem solving to bring the four communities together in a new way.</li> <li>• Continues the collaboration begun under the initial phase of RMC and the potential to share ministries and resources.</li> <li>• Allows time for four entities to collaborate on evangelization and the future growth of parishes, setting the stage for Stage V (i.e., Pastoral Plan).</li> <li>• Provides a more realistic time window to assess the impact of anticipated growth in the area and assessment of needs.</li> <li>• Allows for continued growth in number of parishioners from Chicago and the region. Due to the beauty, historical and cultural histories of our churches, they have become the home parish to many people from outside neighborhoods boundaries.</li> </ul>
<b>MEETS LOCAL MISSION NEEDS</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario address particular local needs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respects particular local vitality and culture</li> <li>• Prevents geographical Catholic deserts</li> <li>• Accounts for demographic trends such as shifts in population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No disruptive change to current worship patterns.</li> <li>• In preserving four sites it respects the local history, culture, and vitality.</li> <li>• Incentivizes growing the local parishes.</li> </ul>
<b>PARISH STRUCTURAL PRINCIPLES</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario fit with the Foundational Principles for Structural Viability?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 800 parishioners attending Mass for a full-time resident pastor, based on the number of pastors in the future</li> <li>• Operating revenue: \$750,000+ for basic staffing</li> <li>• Can afford facility repairs and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't meet any of the RMC benchmarks at this time.</li> <li>• Given that there is no change from current set-up it is not clear how this will lead to growth.</li> <li>• May result in a need to reconfigure local structures again in the future.</li> <li>• With four priests required for four sites it doesn't address the priest shortage.</li> <li>• Not environmentally conscious because it maintains current campuses when fewer could serve the current parishioners and require less resources.</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGEABILITY</b>	<p><b>Will this scenario be manageable for pastors, clergy, and parish staff?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography: potential travel across sites</li> <li>• Administration: Number of buildings</li> <li>• Pastoral care: Sacramental coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would maintain the current inadequate compensated staffing at the parishes, though the "Renew Our Neighborhood" pastoral plan envisions a way to operate with volunteers filling this need.</li> <li>• There are concerns that it may be difficult to meet capital needs of all four sites.</li> <li>• Additional clergy support may be provided by the Jesuits.</li> </ul>

<b>Scenario B-1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Family and Notre Dame would unite to form one new canonical parish under one pastor and staff team. Both churches would remain as active worship sites of the new parish.</li> <li>• The Shrine and Newman Center would remain in their current structures.</li> </ul>		
<b>RENEW MY CHURCH ASPIRATION</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario challenge the grouping to move beyond maintaining current structures to invest a higher percentage of time and resources in ministry?</b></p> <p><b>How will this scenario support vitality and stability for the long-term (10+ years), considering demographic and parishioner trends?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows for sharing of resources and combines finances to strengthen the new parish structure.</li> <li>• Parish identity would need to be established. It could feel like two parishes and one pastor rather than a truly new parish with two sites.</li> <li>• Shared ministries provide an opportunity to encourage more disciples through enhanced faith formation.</li> <li>• Opportunity to eliminate duplicate ministries, thereby allowing pastoral staff and volunteers to be used to create other ministries focused on the parish vision.</li> <li>• Encourages greater cooperation in an area that has had historical divisions: The new parish configuration could generate synergy and excitement.</li> <li>• Provides an opportunity to create a common vision for the neighborhood that incorporates the shared evangelization plan.</li> <li>• Enhances the marriage ministry in the community by adding Notre Dame to the strong Holy Family ministry that holds approximately 90 weddings/year.</li> </ul>
<b>MEETS LOCAL MISSION NEEDS</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario address particular local needs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respects particular local vitality and culture</li> <li>• Prevents geographical Catholic deserts</li> <li>• Accounts for demographic trends such as shifts in population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographically, addresses future needs. Four sites create room for growth/evangelization.</li> <li>• In preserving four sites it respects the local history, culture, and vitality.</li> <li>• Respects the variety of ministries that the community holds – the ecclesial ministry.</li> <li>• Development in the area (see Theme 1) points to continued gentrification and growth, and an opportunity to meet the needs of a growing population.</li> </ul>
<b>PARISH STRUCTURAL PRINCIPLES</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario fit with the Foundational Principles for Structural Viability?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 800 parishioners attending Mass for a full-time resident pastor, based on the number of pastors in the future</li> <li>• Operating revenue: \$750,000+ for basic staffing</li> <li>• Operating revenue: \$750,000+ for basic staffing</li> <li>• Can afford facility repairs and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better addresses the RMC priest/parish and size/budget benchmarks.</li> <li>• While it allows for shared financial and staff resources, it is not clear there would be any budgetary savings or ability to grow the staff since both parishes would remain open.</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGEABILITY</b>	<p><b>Will this scenario be manageable for pastors, clergy, and parish staff?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography: potential travel across sites</li> <li>• Administration: Number of buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sites are well-distributed across the neighborhood and easily accessible for clergy to say multiple Masses each weekend.</li> <li>• On the other hand, this scenario increases the workload for the pastor.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pastoral care: Sacramental coverage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retired priests living at ND rectory may be available for Masses at Holy Family and Notre Dame and other ministerial programs established by the parish.</li><li>• Not environmentally conscious because it maintains current campuses when fewer could serve the current parishioners and require less resources.</li></ul>
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<b>Scenario B-2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Family and Notre Dame would unite as in Scenario B-1.</li> <li>• Notre Dame de Chicago Church would serve as the church for the new parish.</li> <li>• The Jesuits would determine Holy Family’s future use with St. Ignatius College Prep and other ministries in Chicago area.</li> <li>• The Shrine and Newman Center would remain in their current structures.</li> </ul>		
<b>RENEW MY CHURCH ASPIRATION</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario challenge the grouping to move beyond maintaining current structures to invest a higher percentage of time and resources in ministry?</b></p> <p><b>How will this scenario support vitality and stability for the long-term (10+ years), considering demographic and parishioner trends?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiates real changes that would bring the two parishes together.</li> <li>• Opens the space for the Jesuits to explore alternate uses of the facility and possible ministry options.</li> </ul>
<b>MEETS LOCAL MISSION NEEDS</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario address particular local needs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respects particular local vitality and culture</li> <li>• Prevents geographical Catholic deserts</li> <li>• Accounts for demographic trends such as shifts in population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Though not a parish, Holy Family Church could still be available for occasional Masses and other events.</li> <li>• Assumes Holy Family parishioners will move to the new site which may not be realistic. Anytime you close a site you may lose people</li> <li>• Doesn’t disrupt Spanish-language community at Notre Dame.</li> <li>• Closing a site does not respect the local history, culture, and vitality.</li> <li>• Based on parishioner feedback, this scenario may disrupt the long-standing African American community at Holy Family. Given the history of the parish, many parishioners have said that they do not intend to move.</li> <li>• Less accessible by bus for Holy Family parishioners.</li> <li>• Provisions would need to be made by the new parish for marriages already scheduled at Holy Family. A transitional lease could be established to clarify terms for holding the ceremonies at Holy Family.</li> <li>• The Healing Garden’s maintenance and operations would need to be addressed.</li> <li>• Notre Dame’s smaller sanctuary is well-suited to the current membership of the two parishes. But it may struggle to accommodate future growth (unlike Holy Family’s larger space.)</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGEABILITY</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario fit with the Foundational Principles for Structural Viability?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 800 parishioners attending Mass for a full-time resident pastor, based on the number of pastors in the future</li> <li>• Operating revenue: \$750,000+ for basic staffing</li> <li>• Can afford facility repairs and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brings the Grouping closer to RMC metrics.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Will this scenario be manageable for pastors, clergy, and parish staff?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geography: potential travel across sites</li><li>• Administration: Number of buildings</li><li>• Pastoral care: Sacramental coverage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allows for additional staffing at merged parish.</li><li>• Allows for Notre Dame's large rectory to serve as the hub for local clergy.</li><li>• Loss of large parking lot at Holy Family</li></ul>
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<b>Scenario B-3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Family and Notre Dame would unite as in Scenario B-1.</li> <li>• Holy Family Church would serve as the church for the new parish.</li> <li>• Notre Dame de Chicago Church would close.</li> <li>• The Shrine and Newman Center would remain in their current structures.</li> </ul>		
<b>RENEW MY CHURCH ASPIRATION</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario challenge the grouping to move beyond maintaining current structures to invest a higher percentage of time and resources in ministry?</b></p> <p><b>How will this scenario support vitality and stability for the long-term (10+ years), considering demographic and parishioner trends?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continues to provide opportunities to engage with St. Ignatius on various ministries.</li> <li>• Preserves the unique marriage and baptismal ministries at Holy Family that could be part of the evangelization strategy. Currently, there are over 90 weddings and 80 baptisms held at Holy Family. This provides an opportunity for future ministry and outreach to young Catholics and families.</li> </ul>
<b>MEETS LOCAL MISSION NEEDS</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario address particular local needs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respects particular local vitality and culture</li> <li>• Prevents geographical Catholic deserts</li> <li>• Accounts for demographic trends such as shifts in population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While Holy Family is a large church that can accommodate a great deal of growth, it lacks the intimacy of a smaller space (like Notre Dame) that would fit the current size of the two parishes.</li> <li>• Respects the needs and legacy of the African American community at Holy Family.</li> <li>• Closing a site does not respect the local history, culture, and vitality and unlike scenario B-2 this scenario would result in the net loss of an Archdiocesan worship site in the neighborhood. It would also continue a pattern of parish closings on the West Side.</li> <li>• A plan would need to be developed to meet the needs of the Spanish-speaking community at Notre Dame. Hispanics have been at Notre Dame for over 50 years and many were impacted by the previous closure of St. Callistus. Given this history, many parishioners have said that they do not intend to move again.</li> <li>• There is currently an arrangement between Holy Family and St. Francis that Holy Family will only provide English liturgies and St. Francis will only celebrate Spanish liturgies. If Notre Dame is closed, a new arrangement will need to be made to provide for Hispanic parishioners who will be attending Mass at Holy Family.</li> <li>• Assumes Notre Dame parishioners will move to the Holy Family site which may not be realistic. There is a risk of losing parishioners anytime you close a site.</li> <li>• The Healing Garden's maintenance and operations would need to be addressed.</li> </ul>
<b>PARISH STRUCTURAL PRINCIPLES</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario fit with the Foundational Principles for Structural Viability?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Family Inc. the owner of the church, is willing to negotiate the cost sharing of capital expenditures with the parish.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 800 parishioners attending Mass for a full-time resident pastor, based on the number of pastors in the future</li> <li>• Operating revenue: \$750,000+ for basic staffing</li> <li>• Can afford facility repairs and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because UIC provides heating for Holy Family at no cost, compared to Scenario B-2, this scenario reduces the annual operating cost of the new parish (Notre Dame's current estimated heating bill is \$30,000).</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGEABILITY</b>	<p><b>Will this scenario be manageable for pastors, clergy, and parish staff?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography: potential travel across sites</li> <li>• Administration: Number of buildings</li> <li>• Pastoral care: Sacramental coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Family has a large parking lot and prominent, highly visible location.</li> <li>• Priests will need a place to live if the Notre Dame rectory closes.</li> </ul>

<b>Scenario B-4:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and the St. John Paul II Newman Center would share one priest as pastor and chaplain.</li> <li>• Notre Dame and Holy Family would remain in their current canonical structures.</li> </ul>		
<b>RENEW MY CHURCH ASPIRATION</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario challenge the grouping to move beyond maintaining current structures to invest a higher percentage of time and resources in ministry?</b></p> <p><b>How will this scenario support vitality and stability for the long-term (10+ years), considering demographic and parishioner trends?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No disruptive change to the two parishes.</li> <li>• Maintaining four sites creates room for growth and evangelization.</li> <li>• Creates an opportunity for inter-generational ministry.</li> <li>• Would divert the chaplain at the Newman Center from serving the students and promoting vocations.</li> <li>• It is not clear UIC students would worship at the Shrine. The location of the current Newman Center is a big factor in its success.</li> <li>• Nothing in the current arrangement precludes the Shrine or the Newman Center from using the other's facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>MEETS LOCAL MISSION NEEDS</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario address particular local needs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respects particular local vitality and culture</li> <li>• Prevents geographical Catholic deserts</li> <li>• Accounts for demographic trends such as shifts in population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In preserving four sites it respects the local history, culture, and vitality.</li> <li>• Potential weakening of both Shrine and Newman ministries by having the rector/chaplain split responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<b>PARISH STRUCTURAL PRINCIPLES</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario fit with the Foundational Principles for Structural Viability?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 800 parishioners attending Mass for a full-time resident pastor, based on the number of pastors in the future</li> <li>• Operating revenue: \$750,000+ for basic staffing</li> <li>• Can afford facility repairs and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't meet any of the RMC benchmarks.</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGEABILITY</b>	<p><b>Will this scenario be manageable for pastors, clergy, and parish staff?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography: potential travel across sites</li> <li>• Administration: Number of buildings</li> <li>• Pastoral care: Sacramental coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adds to workload of JP II Chaplain in a way that could harm the Center's unique ministry and ability to generate new vocations (another RMC goal).</li> <li>• Solves a problem that doesn't exist – the Shrine is posed to be led by a lay administrator.</li> <li>• Not environmentally conscious because it maintains current campuses when fewer could serve the current parishioners and require less resources.</li> </ul>

<b>Scenario C:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Family Parish and the St. John Paul II Newman Center would share one priest to serve as both pastor of the parish and chaplain of the Newman Center.</li> <li>• Notre Dame and the Shrine would remain in their current canonical structures.</li> </ul>		
<b>RENEW MY CHURCH ASPIRATION</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario challenge the grouping to move beyond maintaining current structures to invest a higher percentage of time and resources in ministry?</b></p> <p><b>How will this scenario support vitality and stability for the long-term (10+ years), considering demographic and parishioner trends?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to provide college-age Catholics with a vibrant post-college, young adult parish experience.</li> <li>• Older parishioners could act as mentors to college students.</li> <li>• John Paul II Center has huge potential for evangelization among college students if it can operate the way it was intended.</li> </ul>
<b>MEETS LOCAL MISSION NEEDS</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario address particular local needs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respects particular local vitality and culture</li> <li>• Prevents geographical Catholic deserts</li> <li>• Accounts for demographic trends such as shifts in population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the Holy Family site is close to UIC's westward expansion, the JP II Center's location is much better for daily student interaction.</li> <li>• In preserving four sites it respects the local history, culture, and vitality.</li> <li>• Doesn't fit with Archdiocesan mission for Newman Center and could dilute its impact.</li> </ul>
<b>PARISH STRUCTURAL PRINCIPLES</b>	<p><b>How well does this scenario fit with the Foundational Principles for Structural Viability?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 800 parishioners attending Mass for a full-time resident pastor, based on the number of pastors in the future</li> <li>• Operating revenue: \$750,000+ for basic staffing</li> <li>• Can afford facility repairs and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't meet many of the RMC benchmarks.</li> <li>• Potential reduced effectiveness of chaplain/pastor by having to split different ministerial responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGEABILITY</b>	<p><b>Will this scenario be manageable for pastors, clergy, and parish staff?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography: potential travel across sites</li> <li>• Administration: Number of buildings</li> <li>• Pastoral care: Sacramental coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to involve a part-time Jesuit involved in Newman ministry work.</li> <li>• Huge time demands on the Chaplain if he has to also run a parish in addition to ministering to UIC students.</li> <li>• Not environmentally conscious because it maintains current campuses when fewer could serve the current parishioners and require less resources.</li> </ul>

## **Additional Feedback and Implementation Concerns for Consideration**

### **Theme 1: Ministering to a Growing Neighborhood in Chicago**

Little Italy and the greater Near West Side community are in the midst of a huge real estate boom. The resulting population growth presents many new opportunities for evangelization which should be taken into account when considering the various scenarios.

Developments include:

- Roosevelt Square which will bring 2,400 more residents to our immediate community;
- The millennial-focused Common Addams development at 15th and Loomis Streets containing 59 co-living units with 223 beds;
- “The 78” development ([78chicago.com](http://78chicago.com)) that will span from Roosevelt Road to Harrison Street along the Chicago River (it is described as the biggest development in the history of Chicago and calls for 4,600 residential units);
- Redevelopment of the old Cook County Hospital that will add 150 apartments;
- The Gateway, a ten-acre development in the Illinois Medical Center that will bring 220 residential units and three hotels;
- Two new 12-story towers at Taylor and Ashland that will add approximately 200 new apartment units.

In addition, a growing number of medical residents and postgraduate students are being accepted into UIC (some 6,000 in academic year 2018-2019), who will be living in our community for four to eight years. The Catholics among them will be seeking to engage in parish life. (Sources for this data include Related Midwest, [www.relatedmidwest.com](http://www.relatedmidwest.com); Higgins Development Partners, [www.thegatewaychicago.com](http://www.thegatewaychicago.com); *Chicago Tribune*; *Crain's Chicago Business*; the University of Illinois at Chicago; the University of Illinois; and AreaConnect, [www.chicago.areaconnect.com/statistics.htm](http://www.chicago.areaconnect.com/statistics.htm).)

### **Theme 2: Collaboration Among the Four Ministry Sites**

During the RMC process the priests and laity began to discern and become excited by the potential for an area-wide formation and evangelization strategy. There are a number of ways this could happen such as through Alpha or Christ Renews His Parish. One possibility was surfaced by the priests of the Grouping which would rely on the development of small faith communities. This is described in the attachment, “Renew Our Neighborhood.” The Grouping reviewed this concept and decided to include it in its submission to the Archdiocese.

### **Theme 3: Jesuit Presence in Little Italy**

The Jesuits have a rich history of ministering to the neighborhood that goes back to 1856 when Father Arnold Damen, S.J. first came to Chicago. In our discussions, the Jesuits have indicated a willingness to work with the Archdiocese to continue, and perhaps enhance the current lease agreement that expires in June 2019, which will require swift attention. In partnering with the Jesuits, there is an opportunity that a 161-year-old alliance could be enlisted to help achieve the stated goal of “building missionary disciples” throughout

the neighborhood. Regardless of the outcome of this discernment process, our hope is pastoral planning for the area will be done in close collaboration with the Jesuits.

#### **Theme 4: The Unique Mission of The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and the St. John Paul II Newman Center**

Through our grouping team's discussions, it became apparent that while the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and St. John Paul II Newman Center are not canonical parishes, they provide an important service to the neighborhood and the Archdiocese. The move to lay leadership of the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii may on its own reduce the demand for additional priests for the Grouping. The Shrine also plays an important role in preserving the area's Italian heritage and collaborating with other shrines throughout the Archdiocese in efforts of evangelization. However, the potential for large capital investment needs to be further investigated and addressed.

The Newman Center also has a unique and important mission in ministering to college age adults, including the promotion of future vocations. Given the unique mission and approach of the Newman Center, merging it into one of the parishes may be counterproductive and decrease student participation. Moreover, the proportion of students living on campus is on the rise, including the building of a brand-new dormitory a block from the Newman Center (opening November 2019). A priest devoted to Newman ministry will be important to addressing student needs and new opportunities for evangelization.

#### **Theme 5: Overcoming Historical Divisions**

The Little Italy grouping is one of the most diverse in the archdiocese as evidenced by the recent census data provided by the Archdiocese. However, while the parishes are more racially, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse than they have ever been, historical divisions still exist between the parishes, and will be an issue that must be addressed for any merger or closure to be successful. Feedback from parish meetings suggest that various racial and ethnic groups are anxious and concerned about being welcomed in another parish based on past experiences. These perceptions, whether real or imagined, are not going to go away unless some concrete actions are taken to bring people together.

#### **Theme 6: Staffing Concerns**

In scenarios that envision a priest serving as pastor of a multi-site parish, there were concerns about the workload of the pastor, how such arrangements would be experienced by the parishioners, and how the stated goals of the feedback and discernment process could be achieved. The grouping strongly believes that for such a structure to be successful, additional staff (clergy and laity) will be needed. Consideration for these new positions should be given to the current pastoral staff.

## Conclusion

After lengthy, energetic and prayerful meetings we submit our feedback to you of various scenarios and conclude with the suggestion that scenarios B1, B2 and B3, many preferring B1, are the most appropriate to fulfill Christ's mission in our neighborhood and the Archdiocese. These scenarios will maintain the unique ministries of the Newman Center and the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and bring together Holy Family and Notre Dame into one canonical parish. We are a unique grouping of ministries with tremendous potential for evangelization, a potential further realized following these deliberations. We would like to continue with your support to expand our work together to further elucidate the collaborative aspects of our ministries. We are excited to continue to evangelize within and beyond our neighborhood borders now and in the future.

Thank you for your prayerful reflection and consideration of our feedback.

Submitted respectfully with the endorsement of the pastors, rector, chaplain, and parish delegates,

### Holy Family Parish

Rev. Michael A. Gabriel  
Alison Conlon  
Odell Gordon  
Saul Guzman  
Robert Johnson  
Amy Wood

### Notre Dame de Chicago Parish

Rev. Kevin Hays  
Martha Álvarez  
Maggie Crulcich  
David Deutsch  
Larry Sorce  
Mark Valentino

### Shrine of our Lady of Pompeii

Rev. Richard Fragomeni  
Paula D'Angelo  
Mary Beth Howard  
Dan Overstreet  
Brian Roman  
Regina Scannicchio

### St. John Paul II Newman Center

Rev. Connor Danstrom  
Sr. Diane Collins  
Becca Siar