

## Renew My Church: The Journey of Renewal

At the heart of our Renew My Church efforts is the renewal of vital, sustainable parishes that have the leadership, resources, and vision necessary to create an effective culture of evangelization that makes disciples, builds communities and inspires witness. This requires prayerful discernment and challenging conversations on our part. It also necessitates great trust that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, will lead us to where He wants us to go.



As I've shared, our parish is working with St. Mary, St. Hugh, and St. Pius X as one group to discern and provide input into how we can best structure our parishes and ministries to make disciples, build community, and inspire witness. Together, we are working through multiple stages on a shared journey of renewal:

Discernment & Decisions: This is the phase we are starting now. The Grouping Feedback and Discernment Team (GFDT) will reflect upon potential scenarios of how our local parishes and schools may be organized differently in the future and develop potential ideas to achieve the mission imperatives. This stage concludes when Cardinal Cupich makes his final decisions regarding any structural changes affecting the grouping.

Operations Transition: Once decisions are made that result in structural/organizational changes to the grouping, a dedicated support team from the Archdiocese works on-site to help pastors manage the transition - both the pastoral accompaniment to walk with people through this time of change and operational transition to ensure new parishes have strong, sustainable operational foundations, upon which the great work of ministry can be built to achieve our mission imperatives.

Building the New Reality: At this point in the process, with the structural, operational, financial, and personnel foundations in place, the grouping will focus its efforts on vibrantly living out the three imperatives. At the core will be a culture of evangelization that supports the work of making disciples, building community, and inspiring witness. This will be a journey over the next several years in our parish.

Along this journey, our Good Shepherd guides our steps. He is with us always and assures us in the Gospel, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (Jn 10:27-30). It's on us to keep our ears open and to listen with our hearts throughout this process.

As always, for more information, visit [www.RenewMyChurch.org](http://www.RenewMyChurch.org), or contact me via email at [fmatt@materchristchurch.com](mailto:fmatt@materchristchurch.com) or via phone at (708) 442-5611.

—*Rev. Matthew A. Nemchausky*



The summer Mission Cooperation Plan is an opportunity for our parish to learn about, take inspiration from, and support missionaries from around the globe. **We will hold the Mission Co-op collection this weekend, August 1st and 2nd. We will welcome one of the Comboni Missionary priests from their LaGrange Park location who will share information about their group at all Masses this weekend.** The Comboni Missionaries are a world-wide group of more than 3,500 priests, brothers, sisters, and laity from diverse cultures who have dedicated our lives to following Christ's example and St. Daniel Comboni's missionary



ideal of evangelization. Today the Comboni Missionaries serve on five continents. We first worked in Europe and Africa, moving to North and South America in the 1930s, and expanding into Asia in the 1980s. Locally, the Comboni Missionaries have a location in LaGrange Park, Illinois, very close to Holy Guardian Angels Parish.

**If you are able, place a donation to support this cause and others like this in the collection basket, or you can make a donation online at [www.WeAreMissionary.org/give](http://www.WeAreMissionary.org/give).**

**How well do you know the other parishes in our RMC Grouping? As we embark on the journey of Renew My Church together, let's take a brief look at the histories of our neighbors...**

### History of St. Hugh Parish

St. Hugh has been more than a place to worship, it has been the center of the community. Although the parish was not organized officially until 1925, its Catholic legacy actually dates to 1875. Men from nearby communities constructed the wood-frame St. Mary's Church in Lyons to serve the families of Lyons, Clyde, and Summit. Parishioners worshiped there until 1899, when a new St. Mary's Church was built in Riverside. From 1901-1921, Lyons Catholics had to shuttle to Riverside to worship. They decided to build a church of their own in 1921.

Rev. John B. Murphy was sent to organize St. Hugh Parish. The new pastor celebrated Sunday Mass in the former Lyons movie theater and the school held classes in the rectory while the parish raised the money to finish the combined church and school.

The church cornerstone was laid in September 1925, and the first Mass was celebrated in the unfinished church on Christmas Day 1925. Cardinal Mundelein dedicated the Church of St. Hugh in 1925. Keating Hall was built to the east of the church in the late 1950s, and new classrooms were attached to it. Later, a gym was built. St. Hugh School served the parish family and community for 75 years before closing in 2001.

Today, St. Hugh serves approximately 600 families. We are a faith community that continues to look for new ways to use our gifts in service to one another. We are thankful for all those who had a vision and shared it with us.

St. Hugh continues to grow and minister to the changing needs of the Lyons community, often attracting parishioners from other communities to whom it "felt like home." In the past several years, St. Hugh started its own St. Vincent de Paul Society and a SPRED group for our friends with special needs, ages 17-21, and we joined the BEDS Plus program for the homeless. Our Society of Catholic Women has been an active partner in parish life since its origins in 1922. Historically, our parish has also had a Girl Scout troop and Men's Club. Parish catechetical ministries include Religious Education, a Youth Ministry, and Bible studies. Among our outreaches are running Kateri's Closet, collecting for a food pantry, and sponsoring a Christmas giving tree and coat drive for Lyons.

Young parishioners are a vital part of St. Hugh, serving as cantors, lectors, musicians, and Junior SCW members and helping with parish events such as the SCW Spring Event, "All Roads Lead to St. Hugh" in October, and the Christmas Bazaar. You can see images of our stained-glass windows and statues on our website at: [www.sthughlyons.org](http://www.sthughlyons.org).

**In next week's bulletin we will be featuring the history of St. Pius X, another one of our RMC Grouping parishes...**