

RENEW MY CHURCH GROUPINGS CONFIRMED

This past week, Bishop Perry announced our local grouping for the *Renew My Church* initiative that begins this month for a pilot group of parishes, but will not begin for us until sometime in the next year or two. Our grouping remains the same as that proposed several months ago: St. Anne, St. Lawrence O'Toole, St. Emeric and IJP. Until our official start date is announced, nothing formal will occur among our five parishes, but at some point, the pastors will get together to talk about our hopes and concerns and to become more familiar with each other's parish.

As we move through this process in the years to come, it's important to remember that its purpose is not the closing of parishes but rather the strengthening of parishes in every corner of the Archdiocese to ensure that the Catholics of Cook and Lake counties receive the services they need and deserve. Now it's true that some parishes may indeed close or be merged with a neighboring parish. But even with the closing of our school this coming June, that isn't something that should be of concern to us, since we continue to enjoy a strong, vibrant parish community with a great spirit of generosity and involvement.

I'll continue to keep you up to date on anything that transpires in the months to come. But what we need to have in place before we enter into our local planning process is that Parish Pastoral Council I wrote about last fall. A few people have already expressed an interest in assisting with the formation of a PPC and I'll be asking several more to help with this. But please feel free to step up and offer your help in the weeks to come. Don't be shy or too modest about what you have to offer!

Fr. Bob