

Change

Dear Friends of the Shrine,

Change. Evolution. New. These three words are challenging words, and more often than not, they are uncomfortable words. But, today they can also be words of hope.

These are the words the Catholic Church is facing today: Change. Evolution. New.

Four and a half years ago, the Archdiocese of Chicago commenced an in-depth review of the entire archdiocesan community. Renew my Church was launched and 97 groupings were created. In our particular grouping, the Shrine was grouped with Holy Family parish, Notre Dame de Chicago parish, and the St. John Paul II Newman Center at UIC.

Wednesday, January. 23, 2019, a meeting was held at Holy Family Church, and the final decision of the Cardinal was announced:

Holy Family parish and Notre Dame parish will become one new parish, with one pastor;

The Newman Center will remain in its current ministry;

The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii will continue to do its ministry which we've been doing so well for 25 years.

Throughout the Renew My Church process, all four members of the Little Italy grouping worked closely together and built a strong relationship. Our Shrine looks forward to contributing to this relationship, which will enrich our Little Italy neighborhood because of all of the ministerial resources we bring together.

Three is a number that is very meaningful. We believe there are Three Persons in One God. We have the three Wise Men. Italians claim that things usually happen in threes. And so, we stand together in the reality of the new "three": one new parish, the Newman Center, and the Shrine, all working together for one goal: to proclaim the good news of Christ. May the Shrine be an important part of this ministry of evangelization, as we continue to Shine On, celebrating our 25th anniversary.

Blessings to you,

Father Richard

Rector