

## **“RENEW MY CHURCH” ARCHDIOCESAN INITIATIVE**

**Update – Bulletin May 28, 2017**

### **BULLETIN ARTICLE FROM FATHER PAUL**

**Dear Parishioners and School Families of St. Celestine,**

The Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago has begun an historic process of renewal and revitalization called *Renew My Church*. Cardinal Cupich and our regional vicar Bishop Manz have asked our parish, along with the parishes of St. Cyprian and St. William, to be among the first groupings to begin the discernment and planning process that is part of *Renew My Church*. We will do so during the second half of this year. Two groupings, one in West Humboldt Park and the other on the North Shore, are currently piloting this process, and their experiences will help refine the process we will follow. Four other groupings from around the archdiocese will also begin the process at the same time as we do.

**What is *Renew My Church*?** - *Renew My Church* calls us to take up the mission of Christ in a fresh way – to respond to the signs of our times so that across the entire archdiocese we are a vibrant and life-giving Church, built of communities filled with vitality that inspire discipleship now and for generations to come. Cardinal Cupich has grounded *Renew My Church* in the experience and inspiration of St. Francis of Assisi. In his time, St. Francis heard Christ’s call to him to “Rebuild My Church.” Francis came to understand that Christ was not calling him to just rebuild a physical structure but to renew and revitalize the faith of the people of the Church and the world. His namesake, Pope Francis, now urges us to do the same in our own time, making the Church a leaven that can transform the world.

**What does this mean for us?** - Practically, this means that our churches and schools, of St. Celestine, St. Cyprian, and St. William will enter a period and process of prayerful discernment beginning later this Summer and into the Fall. We will be asked to honestly assess our current and future challenges, identify strengths and opportunities to build on, and evaluate how we may need to operate differently as Church to best serve our mission. These will be challenging and exciting discussions about how we move into the future as the Church of our local area.

I will be meeting soon with our regional bishop, the other pastors and principals in our grouping, and staff from the archdiocese to learn more details about the process. I will provide you with updates as I learn more. Let us hold each other and the other parish and school communities in our grouping in prayer as we enter this time of discernment and planning for the future.

May God bless you always and bless St. Celestine Parish!

**Fr. Paul Cao, Saint Celestine Pastor**