

Dear Parishioners of St. Terrence,

We have a mission:

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations... Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you and know that I am with you always, until the end of the world” (Mt 28:19-20).*



This is the Great Commission that Christ gave His apostles. And He gives us this mission today as something to accomplish together. An important element to achieving our mission is understanding what we're facing today.

In an earlier article, I noted some of the reasons why renewal is needed, not the least of which is a steady decline in faith practices that stretches back decades. There are many issues that people cite as a catalyst for leaving the Church or lapsing in their faith. The pain and suffering of the abuse crisis and failure in leadership amongst some has been reason enough for some to walk away or refrain from (re)entering. There are also the age-old allurements and noon-day devils that cause people to drift away from the faith of their youth. And there are also issues and challenges of a personal nature that only God can see within people's hearts.

But there are also people that leave the Church not because they reject her teachings or doctrines or even because of the scandals – they leave because they want more than what they're experiencing. In some way, they doubt that Jesus is present within their own parish. For those of us who know and love and serve our Lord present in the sacraments, this may be difficult to get our minds or hearts around. But it's a reality for some.

With that in mind, I ask you to consider the following questions: Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to be His disciple? Is there anything holding you back from following Him more closely? Or from introducing others to Him? What is your relationship with the parish community? How do you strengthen the larger Catholic community?

On September 8th, the Renew My Church grouping met together as 3 parishes for the first time. At this meeting there were representatives from St. Alexanders, Incarnation and St. Terrence. The goal of this meeting was to ensure that each member of the grouping team had a clear understanding of Renew My Church and their role in the process, as well as an opportunity to get to know members of the other parishes.

During the meeting we reviewed data of the Archdiocese, as a whole, to better understand the need for Renew My Church. We also looked at information about church attendance, sacramental life, and financial data for each of the parishes in our grouping. This helped us to see how we could work as a group to better serve the needs of all of our parishes, both spiritually and structurally.

When considering the Structural Renewal of the grouping, we learned about the 3 main movements that we will move through to ensure our parishes use their structures (buildings and finances) most effectively. These three movements are:

1. Discernment and Decision - Determine the right parish structures for future vitality.
2. Operations Transition- Establishing a strong and sustainable financial and operational foundation.

3. Building the new reality- Establishing a strong parish ministerial foundation to achieve the Church's mission.

During these next few months we will spend our meeting time, prayerfully considering configurations of the parishes in our grouping, and identifying areas for collaboration. After getting to know the other parishes and taking into consideration current realities in the communities of our grouping, we will evaluate potential structural options for moving forward and provide that feedback to Cardinal Cupich. In coming meetings, we will be working to determine ways to most effectively serve and evangelize both our current parishioners and the Catholic community in our area.

Please continue to keep our team and all the parishioners of all 3 three parishes in your prayers.

Respectfully,

***Rev. Tomy Abraham &vRenew my Church Grouping Team***

*As always, for more information, visit [RenewMyChurch.org](http://RenewMyChurch.org), ask me or one of the RMC team members.*