



## **Parish Grouping Process: Pulaski Corridor Grouping Update September 2018**

The Pulaski Corridor grouping includes Our Lady of Loretto parish, St. Catherine of Alexandria parish and school, St. Germain parish and school, and St. Terrence.

### **Discernment Process**

The Pulaski Corridor grouping began the review and discernment process in the Spring of 2018. The Grouping Feedback and Discernment Team, which was made up of representatives from each of the parishes, met to review and discern the future church, parish and school structures for the Alsip, Hometown and Oak Lawn area. Based on their meetings and discussions with the larger parish community, they submitted a report for the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, which included representatives from across the Archdiocese.

The Archdiocesan Commission met to review the feedback report and other materials and information, including demographic data, financial summaries, and parish and grouping trends.

### **Decision**

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, and the Archdiocese's Presbyteral Council met, and based on the Archdiocesan Commission's recommendation and other considerations, the Cardinal made a final decision regarding the grouping's structure.

St. Catherine of Alexandria parish will remain, structurally, as is with St. Catherine of Alexandria school continuing as a ministry of the parish.

St. Terrence will continue in its current parish structure, with a full-time resident pastor. Together, St. Terrence parish leadership and the archdiocesan leadership will identify an alternate grouping for further discernment about the best future scenario for the St. Terrence community.

St. Germaine and Our Lady of Loretto parishes will unite to form one, new parish led by one pastor and one staff team, effective July 1, 2019.

Within the next couple of years – at a time determined by parish leadership in consultation with Archdiocesan leadership – the newly formed parish will come together at St. Germaine Church and Our Lady of Loretto Church will close.

St. Germaine school will remain as a ministry of the parish with the prior benchmarks established by the Office of Catholic Schools.

### **Next Steps**

Through the new parish structure, the St. Germaine and Our Lady of Loretto communities will unite their resources to become a stronger, more sustainable presence for the future. And working in collaboration with St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Terrence, all of the parishes within the Pulaski Corridor will be capable of reaching more people in their work of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Over the next few months, the Archdiocese will work with all involved to ensure an orderly and smooth transition to the new structure. The Archdiocese's Priest Placement Board will work with the community to identify a pastor to lead the new parish formed by St. Germaine and Our Lady of Loretto.

***Local Note:*** This decision reflects much of [the feedback report](#) that the Grouping Teams provided to the Archdiocese regarding the "Alternate Scenario 1" that was developed by the parish teams