

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

Archdiocesan Restructuring



Thank You!

We are deeply grateful to the lay faithful across the Archdiocese of Detroit for your generous participation during this important phase of the restructuring process. More than 40,000 parishioners attended 412 parish listening sessions, and over 17,000 individuals shared their feedback through the survey. Thank you for the time you have invested, the insights and experiences you have shared, and the spirit of faith with which you have engaged this process. Your continued prayers, participation, and commitment to the Church are helping us discern together how best to strengthen our parishes and advance the mission of Christ throughout southeast Michigan.

What Happens Next? Parish Modeling Refinement

Throughout August and September, all of the feedback and data received was reviewed, organized, and analyzed. The restructuring team, consultative bodies, and the Catholic Leadership Institute are now working together to evaluate that input and prepare for the next phase of the process: the refinement of the parish models.

Round 1: Faithful

APRIL-JULY 2026



Priests, faithful, volunteer facilitators, KPLs, PPOC, Curia, Parish Renewal & CLI

Round one draft models were developed during the Priests' Discernment Workshop in January and subsequently shared with the faithful through parish listening sessions and the restructuring website. Feedback was collected through the listening sessions, an online survey, and various consultative bodies, ensuring that the perspectives of clergy, parish leaders, and the lay faithful were incorporated into the refinement process.

Round 2: Parishes

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2026



Priests, KPLs, deacons, Parish Renewal & CLI

Round one draft models will be refined with input from consultative bodies, priests, deacons, lay ministers, and the lay faithful. The refined Round two draft models will be released in October 2026 at [RESTRUCTURING.AOD.ORG](https://restructuring.aod.org). Pastors and Key Parish Leaders will then be invited to give additional feedback. After further refinement, the final recommended models will be presented to the Archdiocesan Restructuring Commission and then to Archbishop Weisenburger for his discernment as he considers the future configuration of parishes across the Archdiocese.

Final Announcement

APRIL 17-18, 2027



Archbishop Weisenburger

Archbishop Weisenburger will enter a time of prayerful discernment, carefully considering the proposed parish models and the feedback received from clergy, parish leaders, and the lay faithful. After completing this discernment, he will announce the final restructuring models and priest assignments during the weekend of April 17-18, 2027.

Model Refinement FAQs

WHAT HAPPENS IN REFINEMENT?

Once all of the feedback has been read, the Modeling Team, together with a select group of priests and lay leaders from each planning area, will gather to review the feedback for their planning area and refine the models. The work done in the refinement workshops will result in a set of Round two draft models for each planning area. In some cases, one or both models may remain the same as the Round one draft models that were shared at parish listening sessions. In other cases, one or both models may be new or revised in some way.

At that time, Key Parish Leaders (KPLs) and priests at each parish will

gather to review the models and share their feedback. The Round two draft models will also be published to the restructuring website at this time. We anticipate that Round two draft models will be published in October 2026.

WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

We want to be transparent about how participants were selected and the perspectives represented, while also protecting the integrity of the working sessions. For that reason, we are not publishing individual participant names.

This allows participants to engage candidly in the refinement process without being viewed as representatives of a particular parish or constituency or being contacted or lobbied outside the workshops. We believe this strikes the right balance between transparency about the process and creating an environment where participants can thoughtfully consider the parish feedback and make the difficult decisions needed to develop the Round two draft models.

HOW WERE PARTICIPANTS FOR MODEL REFINEMENT SELECTED?

Participants were selected based on their involvement in and exposure to the restructuring process to date. Most are members of the Modeling Team, restructuring commission, and/or project work streams. The group includes priests, deacons, parish staff, and lay leaders who collectively bring a range of perspectives and familiarity with the pastoral and practical realities of the planning areas.

During the workshops, participants will review the feedback gathered through the parish listening sessions, evaluate the Round one draft models, and make decisions about how those models should be refined into the Round two draft models. The Round two draft models will then move forward as the next step in the broader discernment and restructuring process.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MODELING TEAM

The Modeling Team includes priests, deacons, parish staff, and lay leaders who collectively bring a range of perspectives and familiarity with the pastoral and practical realities of the planning areas. This team acts as a consultative body that reviews feedback and refines the pastorate models in collaboration with additional participants from each planning area.

ARCHDIOCESAN RESTRUCTURING COMMISSION

Members of the Archdiocesan Restructuring Commission are priests, deacons, religious and laity from across the Archdiocese of Detroit who advise and consult on the restructuring process.

CURIA

The administrative “headquarters” of the Archdiocese of Detroit, which consists of departments, ministry leaders and officials who assist the Archbishop in his ministry as the chief shepherd and pastor of the local Church.

DEPARTMENT OF PARISH RENEWAL

A new department of the archdiocesan curia set up for the purpose of facilitating, administering and overseeing the archdiocesan restructuring process, as well as advising Archbishop Weisenburger. Fr. Mario Amore is the executive director of the Department of Parish Renewal.

WHY DOES MY PRIEST HAVE TO BE REASSIGNED EVEN IF MY PARISH IS HEALTHY?

The rationale behind what we anticipate will be a significant movement of priests has been discussed extensively with our clergy. We have also consulted with several dioceses that have undergone similar restructuring efforts, as well as priests currently serving in those dioceses. Consistently, their recommendation has been that all priests move as part of the transition.

There are several reasons for this approach. First, it allows us to look at the needs of the Archdiocese as a whole and match the gifts, talents, and experiences of our priests with the needs of the pastorates they will serve. Second, it provides both priests and parish communities with an opportunity for a fresh start as these new pastorates are formed.

Most pastorates will consist of multiple parish communities led by one pastor, with other priests serving as parochial vicars (commonly known as associate pastors). If priests were to remain in their current assignments and one of those priests was named pastor of the newly formed pastorate, it could create challenges for both clergy and parishioners. Parishioners might naturally continue to look to their longtime priest for leadership, and the pastor could be perceived as favoring the community from which he originally came. These dynamics can make it more difficult to build trust across the pastorate and to lead the newly formed community effectively.

We recognize that this aspect of the restructuring may be difficult to understand and accept, particularly given the strong bonds that often develop between priests and parish communities. Our goal is to position both our priests and our pastorates for long-term success as we seek to continue serving the People of God throughout southeast Michigan.

PASTORATE

A grouping of one or more parishes entrusted to the pastoral care of a single pastor and often sharing resources, ministries, and staff. A pastorate may include one pastor overseeing a single parish, or one pastor overseeing multiple parishes.

PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT (PPOC)

A parish staff member appointed by his or her priest to help navigate the archdiocesan restructuring process and communicate with the larger parish community. PPOCs have three responsibilities: to receive, share, and submit information on behalf of their parish during the restructuring process.

KEY PARISH LEADERS (KPLS)

Individual members of each parish designated by their priest to serve as collaborators in the restructuring effort. Key Parish Leaders must be registered parishioners and may serve as members of the parish/finance council, key ministry leaders, or representatives of a key parish demographic group. Key Parish Leaders will help share, inform, participate and lead the discernment process at their parish.