



MARY, MOTHER OF MARTYRS PARISH  
ST. MARY & ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 11, 2025

Dear parishioners,

Of all the crises we can name in the Church today, perhaps the deepest is an identity crisis—we have forgotten who we are and what we are called to do as a Church. If we exist for mission, then what is that mission? Jesus gave us four clear tasks: **“Go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them all that I have commanded you”** (Mt 28:19-20). The task of making disciples is at the very heart of our mission.

A disciple of Jesus is “engaged in a lifelong process of learning from and about Jesus.” Our goal is not simply to make believers or “practicing Catholics,” but true disciples. As Fr. James Mallon writes in Divine Renovation:

*“To receive this Good News, to be evangelized, is not only to hear these wonderful truths, to know about them, but to come to know Him—to not just believe in Him but love Him and be in love with Him.”*

**We must work intentionally to create spaces where people can encounter Jesus as the living Lord**, awaken a hunger for Him, and begin a journey of discipleship. We must rediscover our identity and place the Lord’s mandate for His Church at the center of everything we do. When we do this, at the heart of every parish will be a community of growing, maturing believers—committed to lifelong learning, discovering their gifts, prepared to serve, and ready to become apostles (*those who are sent*).

It is in this spirit that I personally invite you to take part in a formation process inspired by Divine Renovation, founded by Fr. James Mallon and supported by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

We will gather **for three evening sessions**, from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Each session will include small groups of about 10 participants, two 20-minute videos and time for sharing and discussion based on the videos.

**Session 1:** Introduction and Vision. On Tuesday, September 16.

**Session 2:** Parish Leadership & Evangelization. On Tuesday, September 23.

**Session 3:** Structure and Culture. On Tuesday, September 30.

The same sessions will be offered on Wednesdays, October 8, 15, and 22.

I am truly proud of your dedication to the parish, and I sincerely hope you will make time to join these sessions and renew your commitment to serving the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. David Arcila  
Pastor

**Register before September 8**

Choose **one** of the options below:

- **Scan the QR Code** to register for the sessions.
- **Text** your name and whether you plan to attend the **September** or **October** sessions to **847-200-2058**.



- ✂-----
- **Fill out the registration form** below and return it to the parish office or place it in the collection basket at Sunday Mass.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email or Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

- Please mark one option:
- ☐ I plan to attend September (16,23,30) Sessions
- ☐ I plan to attend October (8,15,22) Sessions