

Thank you for the overwhelming responses of suggestions for our new parish name. Over 150 submissions were received, which is amazing! Unfortunately, there were two names that were popular and submitted in the names suggestion collection; St. Mother Theresa and St. Faustina. However, they have already been assigned to other parishes in wave one. We unfortunately are in wave two. The following names are presented to you for your consideration.

Each adult parishioner will be asked to vote for 1 of these 6 names to be our new parish patron during masses on Sept 7th & 8th. (There are no absentee ballots.) Please take time to prayerfully consider and read the information about each of these candidates.

## **SS. Barbara & Louise de Marillac New Parish Name Options in Alphabetical Order**

### **St. Clare of Assisi - Feast Day: August 11**

**Bio:** Saint Clare of Assisi was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1194 to wealthy parents, and was taught to read and write as well as spin yarn and do needlework. She had little interest in her luxurious surroundings, and influenced by her mother's religious devotion, Clare dedicated her life to God at an early age. She also showed early on that her calling would involve helping the poor, as she set aside food from her family table to give to the needy on the streets. When Clare was 18, Francis of Assisi came to preach in the church of San Giorgio at Assisi. Inspired by his words, Clare asked Francis to help her in dedicating her life to God, and she took vows dedicating her life to God. Clare cared for Francis toward the end of his life after his death; Clare continued his work and broadened her own influence. Clare died in 1253 and was canonized on 26 September 1255, in Rome by Pope Alexander IV.

**Rationale:** St. Clare founded the order of Poor Clares which had 20,000 nuns in over 75 countries as of 2011. St Clare lived a life of faith, trust, courage, and love of God. She lived a life parallel to St. Francis of Assisi, who is the inspiration for Renew My Church. Her name would inspire us to evangelization and to follow our call to discipleship.

### **St. Gianna Molla - Feast Day: April 28**

**Bio:** Saint Gianna Molla was Italian Roman Catholic pediatrician who put the life of her unborn fourth child ahead of her own. When faced with a serious illness during her pregnancy, she chose to continue carrying her child rather than address her health problem, which ultimately lead to her death shortly after the baby's delivery. Living in 1950's and 60's Italy, she belonged to a group called Catholic Action, a group that came together regularly to pray and to serve others in their community. She was active in her parish's St Vincent de Paul group and caring for the elderly. Her own personal motto was "prayer, action, sacrifice" and she practiced this in her daily life and her husband described her ultimate choice as one of conscience as both a loving mother and a doctor.

**Rationale:** St Gianna represents an example of Christ, putting her unborn child's life in front of her own, especially in our current culture that doesn't fully respect life. St Gianna, a lay woman in the 1960s, was married with children and worked as a pediatrician. She represents a modern fixture in today's society; a working parent. By naming our new parish after St Gianna, it would represent a return to the church's teaching on life and how Christ gave His life for us.

### **Holy Guardian Angels** - Feast Day: October 2

**Bio:** God appoints an angel of heaven to every individual to be our guide and protector. In our world of daily change, we look to a host of angels to lead, inspire, and foster a personal connection in each of us to come together as a strong faith community in our parish.

**Rationale:** During this time of change, these Holy Guardian Angels guide each of us in making decisions to make the best choices for each of our churches and will provide spiritual protection that cover us like a blanket as we join together. Our Holy Guardian Angels will renew us in Christian faith and lead us in good thoughts, works, and words.

### **St. Lazarus of Bethany** - Feast Day: December 17

**Bio:** St. Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha of Bethany and one of Jesus' closest friends. He is the subject of a prominent miracle of Jesus in the Gospel of John (Chapter 11), in which Jesus restores him to life four days after his death. When Jesus receives word that his friend is gravely ill, he rushes to Bethany. When he arrives, Martha laments that Jesus did not arrive soon enough to heal her brother and Jesus replies with the well-known statement, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he dies, shall live: And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

**Rationale:** St. Lazarus was thought to be dead, but in fact Jesus was able to resuscitate him. Renew My Church gives our combined parish the new life needed to move forward. St. Lazarus embodies that rebirth.

### **St. Lydia** - Feast Day: August 3

**Bio:** Lydia (1st century) was born in Thyatira, a town famous for its dye works. She was a seller of purple dye and was St. Paul's first convert at Philippi. She is mentioned in the New Testament in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 16).

**Rationale:** Lydia was the first Christian in Europe who Paul baptized. Paul's words and actions opened her heart to the word of God. A very holy woman and an important follower in the beginning of our faith, she was open to the Spirit's fire changing her life—the same kind of change hoped for by Renew My Parish evangelization goals. She opened her home to Paul and Timothy, showing her as a model of hospitality. We hope our new parish will follow her actions as a welcoming place.

### **St. Mary Magdalene** - Feast Day: July 22

**Bio:** Mary Magdalene (of Magdala) was a close friend of the apostles, who likely supported them financially and was part of their company. She is mentioned in the Gospels as a woman who is afflicted by demons. Jesus removes all 7 demons from her, and she in turn follows Him. She is mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of the apostles. Mary was present at the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, though the Apostles ran away.

**Rationale:** St. Mary Magdalene was the first witness to the resurrection of Jesus. She ran to tell everyone, including the Apostles. She is known to be "the Apostle to the Apostles." She is a great inspiration for all to believe. We would take her example to remind us to evangelize and proclaim the resurrection.