

Parish Council

What is a Parish Pastoral Council?

A parish pastoral council is a group of people who assist in the pastoral planning of the parish. It fosters participation of the entire parish in the life and mission of the Church. The Council is a consultative body, who advise and assist the pastor in areas of pastoral concern. It develops and recommends parish pastoral plans through consensus in an atmosphere of prayerful reflection. Members are to be representative of the entire parish recognizing and reflecting the parish's diversity.

What are the responsibilities of a Parish Pastoral Council?

The Pastoral Council, as a consultative body, provides a structure whereby the laity, religious and clergy work together collaboratively to promote the Reign of God—to build up the Body of Christ.

The pastor looks to the council for recommendations on how the parish can be faithful to living out the mission of the Church. He will consult with them when he needs the practical wisdom of the members before making a decision that will affect the parish.

The Pastoral Council in collaboration and cooperation with the parish staff, groups, committees and parishioners plan the events that happen within the parish.

As the pastor consults with the council, so to, the council consults with other parish leaders and parishioners in its planning processes.

The Council needs to be rooted in prayer, open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, committed to patient listening and study, and working to recommend the plans and directions which will enhance the quality of parish life and promote parish vitality.

Who are Members of the Parish Pastoral Council?

The Council includes people of varying opinions and ideas. All members must be active registered members of the parish and committed to fostering the life and mission of the Church promoting the good of the whole parish.