

Role and Function of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) – the primary responsibility of the PPC is pastoral planning. The pastoral planning process is an ongoing cyclical process which is always mission-motivated. Pastoral planning involves discernment, and senses, prioritizing goals and objectives, implementation and evaluation.

The PPC works with the pastor to discern needs, ensure that they are met and continually move the parish towards the greater fulfillment of its mission. Through constant attention to the life of the parish and the greater community the Council identifies areas of concern and enables the parish to reach out to those in need. The traditional hallmarks of Christianity – **Word, Worship, Community and Service** – guide the Council in the evaluation of needs and the parish's response to them. Knowing that a parish cannot do all things at once, prioritizing goals help to determine areas of greatest need or activities that are achievable within a two to three-year time frame.

The PPC practices discernment and consensus in the decision-making process. Discernment and consensus requires patience and respect. Discernment is a process of decision-making that utilizes listening to the word of God, and reflecting on the mission of Jesus, the mission of the universal church, and the mission of the parish. Discernment requires an open mind and an open heart. The capacity for prayerful contemplation is essential in the discernment process.

Consensus is discerning together, as a Council, as a body. Although the body of the PPC has several members, when a decision has been made through prayerful discernment, the Council expresses unity – unity of spirit, and unity of purpose. Coming to consensus requires dying to self and focusing on the common good, to attributes of discipleship. Consensus means not insisting on our own way. **Consensus requires humility, honesty, integrity, and gentleness.**

In order to develop a spirit of unity and purpose, the PPC find opportunities for prayer and reflection, whether within meetings or on special occasions for study or retreat. It reflects on what it means to be a Christian in today's world, on what it means to be a community in the service to the church. It articulates local goals and objectives in relation to the mission which flows from the **Diocesan Pastoral Plan**. The Council looks back as well as forward with hope, as it's regularly evaluates its efforts and plans new responses in service to the mission of Christ in our local community.

The PPC meets regularly four times a year. Occasionally, Council members may be asked to be part of an of hot committee charged with researching or investigating up together matter related to Council deliberations. Key qualities needed in Council members are the abilities **to study, reflect and recommend sound conclusions.**

As we work through the parish discernment of new Council members, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Look around the parish to see those individuals whom you would recommend to serve on Council. Recommendations forms for prospective Council members will be inserted in next week's bulletin.

Qualities and Requirements for Parish Pastoral Council Members and members of the Finance Committees for St. James and St. Patrick

— the role of the PPC is as a leadership body which works to discern the mission of the parish and to envision the ways in which that mission is lived out in the parish.

As we seek to discern members of St. Patrick's and St. James parish to serve on the PPC and Finance Committee we need to examine the qualities that we are looking for in Council members. Specifically, we are looking for leaders who embody the following qualities:

- **desire for spiritual growth in oneself and the parish**
- **enthusiasm about the future of St. Patrick Parish and St. James Parish**
- **ability to study issues, reflect on them and draw some conclusions**
- **eagerness to facilitate parish decisions about its direction**
- **parish to work toward consensus**
- **capacity to listen outweighing the need to speak**
- **integrity in articulating one has heard and what one believes**
- **ability to inspire and empower**
- **willingness to delegate**
- **flexibility and openness with people and ideas**

In addition, members would have to have the time to commit to attending the meetings approximately 4 or five times a year, an annual retreat, and other committee meetings as deemed necessary by council.

If you feel that these qualities described you and would like to take an active role in helping to set the direction for the parish. I invite you to prayerfully consider God is calling you to ministry on the PPC.

Similarly, if you know another member of the parish who has these qualifications, pray about suggesting their name.

As we work through the parish discernment of new Council and Committee Members, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Look around the parish to see those individuals whom you would recommend to serve. Recommendations forms for prospective Council members will be inserted in next week's bulletin.

Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee Recommendation Form

We are looking for new members to take on leadership roles within our parish communities. These people will make decisions about the pastoral life and growth of both St. Patrick's parish and St. James parish as we prepare ourselves for the initiation of the family of parishes. We ask you to please help identify persons in our faith communities could enable us to develop our sense of **Word, Worship, Community and Service**.

The people you recommend should have the following characteristics:

- a desire for spiritual growth in themselves and in the parish
- enthusiasm about the future direction of our parish
- ability to study, reflect on issues and draw some conclusions
- willingness to listen, speak honestly, and to work toward consensus
- the ability to inspire and empower others and to delegate
- flexibility and openness with people and ideas

In order to be considered for the Ministry of parish leadership a parishioner must:

- be a baptized Catholic
- be a member of either St. Patrick's or St. James parish
- be at least 16 years old

Please list the names of parishioners, including yourself, whom you identify as having the gifts for leadership within our parish community. These people will receive a call to inform them that they have been named and asked them to participate in the leadership of our parish community. They will have an option to remain in the selection process or not.

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I recommend the following individuals to be invited to consider leadership ministry through service On the Parish Pastoral Council or Finance Committee at St. James and St. Patrick Parish Communities. I promise to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the selection process.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Thank You for your suggestions. Please return your recommendation in the collection basket on the weekend of April 28/29 2018. Please remember to pray for the selection of our leadership team that will lead us into the family of parishes.