



Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils

The purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council is to work with the pastor, who in virtue of his office has the pastoral care of the parish (c. 536), in fostering its pastoral life and activity. As an instrument of ecclesial communion, this Council serves the orderly collaboration of the faithful in offering advice to the pastor.

The Pastoral Council enjoys only a consultative vote, and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop. (c. 536§2). Thus, while the Parish Pastoral Council must assist the pastor in all areas, its principal role is consultative.

The members of the Parish Pastoral Council should come from the various spheres of the life and pastoral activity of the parish. For example: liturgical, educational, charitable, and social, They may also come from various organizations such as St. Monica Guild, Knights of Columbus, movements and other bodies. Never in an exclusive way but always inclusive of all cultures and ethnicity.

The members of the Parish Pastoral Council must be practicing Catholics of proven faith, attend Sunday Mass regularly, have sound morals and be in good standing with the Church. They must also be at least 18 years of age and have belonged to the parish for a minimum of one year as well as be able to demonstrate wisdom, prudence and willingness to collaborate.

With prayer and docility to the Holy Spirit, the Council will foster the parish's planning, programs and services. The Parish Pastoral Council must work to build unity in the parish. Thus, in its deliberations it strives for consensus by discussion and by sharing information and ideas.