

Pastoral Council Discernment Process Brief

Good Morning/Afternoon, my name is _____.

I am here today to speak about our parish Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council, required by Church law, is the body that assists the pastor in his leadership role in the parish.

While the daily operation of the parish is accomplished by the pastor and staff, the primary responsibility of a Pastoral Council is offer the pastor a vision for the future of our parish community. This will also include feedback and advice to the pastor relative to the present activities of the community. It is a call by the Holy Spirit and the community in the context of prayer, openness and trust.

The council's role is...

- ❖ to assess the current life of the parish in its many facets;
- ❖ to prioritize the needs of our parish in the light of Gospel teachings;
- ❖ and to plan for the future.

This is especially crucial in a period of limited human, financial and material resources. Therefore, the council is charged with considering the good of the parish as a whole as it seeks to fulfill the mission of Christ.

The Council is comprised of active members of our Catholic community who are representative of the wider parish. Council members need to understand their role at the parish level, as well as the ability to communicate with similar structures at the diocesan level. This process distinguishes the pastoral council from any other ministry or organization within the parish.

Last year, the respective pastoral councils of Saint Peter and Assumption-Saint Paul joined as one council comprised of twelve parishioners. Six (6) from St. Peters and six (6) from Assumption/St.

Paul together with the ex-officio members: the pastor, deacon and parish trustees. While St. Peters presently has full representation on the Council, since July 1st ASP has had only 2 members. Accordingly, at this time we are seeking four members from **Assumption/St Paul** to join the Council.

To bring the council to full representation in the transition period, this week we are asking you to prayerfully consider those parishioners, who you believe work well with others, and has the Holy Spirit's ability to envision a future life for our community consistent with the teaching of the Gospel message, and who can make the mission and ministry of Jesus real and tangible at this particular moment in the history of our parish.

When you leave Church today please take home a Nominating Form found in the pews. Reflect, pray and consider someone from **Assumption/St Paul** for this position.

Next weekend, 30/31 October we will collect the Nominating Forms.

During the second week of November we will hold an information night with those whose names have been placed in nomination to learn more about the Pastoral Council.

The third week of November, we will hold a night of discernment whereby those nominated will be asked to join in prayer to the Holy Spirit, reflection, and open conversation, to call forth from those gathered the new members of the Council.

On the first Sunday of Advent the new members will be formally installed.

We hope to make this a process that focuses on a person's gifts and is open and transparent, straightforward and simple. We ask for your prayers in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for your attention. As we prepare to worship God, let us place ourselves for a few moments in silence.