

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Purpose and Expansion of the Parish Pastoral Council



The Catholic Church requires each Church Parish to have a Parish Pastoral Council. A Pastoral Council is an advisory group which counsels the Pastor regarding a vision, goals and projects for the flourishing of the parish spiritually, socially and pastorally.

At present, the St. Francis Parish Council consists of Fr. Joe, Fr. Thien and the Heads of the Major Ministries and Groups in our Parish and School: our School Principal, and the Heads of Religious Education, the Seniors Sharing Program, the Food Bank, Social Justice Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, Youth Ministry, the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella, the School Board, the Men's Club, and the Home and School Association. The Parish Council meets approximately every two months. There is an Agenda at every meeting with proposals and projects for consideration and input. In addition, the Heads of each Ministry or Group report on their scheduled activities, hopes and desires.

At present, all Members of the Parish Council are appointed by the Pastor and serve as long as they remain the Head of their ministry. We want to bring 3 new elected At-Large Members onto the Parish Council to expand input and ideas from around the parish. The new Members will serve a two-year term.

Fr. Joe and Fr. Thien will describe the work of the Parish Council and announce the plan for electing Members at Masses on September 19-20. Nominations or Self-Nominations for the Council will be accepted on September 26-27 (Note: Nominations can come at Mass or by email.) The Slate of Nominees (with bios) will be distributed at Church and in the Bulletin on October 3-4. The Election will take place in Church on October 10-11. People will vote for their top three choices and place their ballots in the collection basket or collection boxes in Church. The Winners will be announced on October 17-18 and invited to the Parish Council Meeting on October 22.

Please consider prayerfully if God might be calling you to serve on this Council, which works for the guidance of the Pastor and the good of the Parish.

God bless you,

Fr. Joe