

St. Rita Catholic Community Pastoral Council Charter

Mission of St. Rita Catholic Community

Saint Rita Catholic Parish is a Community of God's People called by Baptism and by Faith in Jesus Christ to live for God and others.

The Mission of the Parish is to witness to Christ's presence in the world and to respond to the challenge of the Gospel message. United in this belief, the Community is called to be a worshipping, listening, and serving people.

Centered in the celebration of the Eucharist, the parish community supports the spiritual, liturgical, educational, and social growth of its members.

United with our Holy Father, our Bishop, and our Pastor, the Saint Rita Community faithfully pursues its mission by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the gifts and talents of its members.

Purpose of the Pastoral Council:

The Pastoral Council serves to discern through study and prayer how the parish community can best carry out its mission. The Council is a consultative and "envisioning" body that supports the Pastor in guiding the overall direction of parish activity through prayerful reflection and consensus building among its members. It functions in accordance with the Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines of the Diocese of Dallas.

The Council's role is one of sharing information with the parish community and collaborating with other parish bodies and individuals on behalf of the overall objectives and mission of the parish. The collaboration also involves identifying, and bringing to the Pastor's attention, the needs, desires, and concerns of the parishioners.

Membership and Selection:

- **Membership:** Open to a baptized member of the Body of Christ and registered parishioner who is called by the Holy Spirit and, through a sacramental life, demonstrates good stewardship as a disciple of our Lord. Members are willing to enhance their skills in Christian leadership within a consultative framework that reflects the diversity of our parish community.
- **Selection:** Selected by the community coming together in prayer and asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning possible candidates. The existing members of the council and the Pastor select new members of the council from those discerned to be possible members.
- **Size:** The council shall consist of twelve (12) members, not including the Pastor or his designees.

Term of Office:

Council Members are appointed for 3-year terms, with terms staggered so that only a portion of the Council "turns over" each year. Following a one-year break, a parishioner may be eligible for an additional full term. The discernment of new members occurs each October and the term of the new council begins in January of the following year. Members of the Pastoral Council are committed to their role and to attending each meeting. Open positions on the Council will be filled during the annual discernment process.

Organization and Operation:

Each June, the Pastoral Council discerns the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair through consensus to serve a one-year term, from July through the following June. The Council members also choose a Secretary to serve for a one-year term.

Meetings are scheduled monthly, with additional special meetings scheduled, if needed.

Updating this Charter:

This charter shall be reviewed at least every three years or in the event of a new Pastor being assigned.