

## ***Pastoral Council By-Laws***

### **Purpose and Function of Pastoral Council**

*The purpose of this council is to foster participation of the entire parish in the life and mission of the church. The function of this Pastoral Council is to develop and implement a pastor plan through consensus, in prayerful reflection and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

*Further, it is the function of the Parish Pastoral Council to accomplish the tenets of our Parish Mission statement, setting Pastoral goals and priorities and constantly assessing the needs and resources of the parish.*

### **Meeting Schedule/Attendance**

*The Pastoral Council will meet on the third Tuesday of alternating months. Meetings with leaders of other parish committees may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chairman. Meetings may be cancelled or rescheduled at the option of the Chairman or Vice Chairman.*

*All meetings require a quorum consisting of the simple majority of members. As a result, members are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings. If a member cannot attend a scheduled meeting, they should notify the Chairman or Vice Chairman as soon as they are aware of their inability to attend.*

### **Membership and Organization**

*The Parish Pastoral Council will consist of at least thirteen members plus the parochial vicar and pastor who will serve as Chairman. The parishioners will elect six members, three will be appointed by the pastor and four ex-officio members will serve as defined by the Archdiocesan Rationale, Principles and Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils and as modified by the Church of St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council.*

*At the pastor's discretion, more than thirteen people can serve on the Council. One ex-officio member must be a representative of the finance committee. The six elected and three appointed members will serve a three-year term or in conformance with the Archdiocesan Guidelines, a member's term may be extended up to an additional three years by the Chairman. Terms for elected and appointed members are limited to six consecutive years. So the Council will have continuity, three members at most will be elected at any one time.*

*The Chairman will appoint a vice-chairman and a secretary. Responsibilities of the vice-chairman and secretary are outlined in the Archdiocesan Rationale, Principles and Guidelines for Pastoral Councils.*

*Vacancies on the Council due to resignation, relocation, etc., will be filled by the Chairman.*

### **Relationship with Parish Organizations & Committees**

*The Parish Pastoral Council cooperates with Parish Organizations and Committees such as: Worship/Spirituality; Evangelization; Education; Parish Life and Human/Social Concerns; Finances, etc. These are not Pastoral Council Committees.*

*To encourage unity and integration and to foster a close working relationship among all parish groups, the Parish Pastoral Council will inform through communication with the leaders of parish organizations and committees.*

*Parish organizations and committees are linked to the Pastoral Council through the Pastor and parish staff. It is not recommended that parish organizations be specifically represented on the Pastoral Council. If a member of a parish organization or committee becomes a member of the Pastoral Council, the following guidelines should apply: Members of the Pastoral Council must recognize their responsibility to represent the entire parish rather than the exclusive membership or agenda of their organization or committee.*

*It is important for the Pastoral Council, Parish Organizations and Committees to understand clearly the vital part each one plays in the parish community.*

### **Relationship & Interaction With Parishioners**

*The Pastoral Council is a leadership group rooted in prayer, open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, committed to patient listening and study and working to recommend the plans and directions that will enable the parish to respond most fully to what Jesus asks of us in these times.*

*Parish Pastoral Council members need to be visible in the parish community and in contact with parishioners. The Pastoral Council is responsible for communicating with parish members through announcements, asking questions and listening to members of the parish, both active and inactive.*

*The Council can fulfill its role by encouraging a climate in which people can feel free to speak the truth with openness and love.*