

CONSTITUTION - PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

PREAMBLE

"All priests, whether diocesan or religious, share and exercise with the Bishop the one priesthood of Christ. They are thus constituted providential cooperators of this episcopal order. The diocesan clergy have, however, a primary role in the care of souls because, being incardinated in or appointed to a particular church, they are wholly dedicated in its service to the care of a particular section of the Lord's flock, and accordingly form one priestly body and one family of which the Bishop is the father." (*Christus Dominus*, 28)

In its liturgy and in the teaching of the Fathers, the tradition of the Church has affirmed that the order of presbyters forms one priesthood with the Bishop as head and father. It has emphasized that presbyters are related to the Bishop as counselors and co-ministers in the apostolic mission (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 7). Consistent with that tradition, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council saw the need to renew and strengthen the relationship between the Bishop and the priests serving in the ministry of a diocese. For this to be experienced in a practical manner, they recommended that a group or senate of priests be set up in a way suited to present-day needs, and in a form with rules determined by law. This group would represent the body of priests who by their advice could effectively assist the Bishop in the administration of the diocese. (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 7)

In the *Instruction for Ordination*, the candidate for admission to the order of presbyters is reminded that "...united with the Bishop and subject to him (he) seeks to bring the faithful together into a unified family and lead them effectively through Christ and in the Holy Spirit to God the Father." Ordained "a co-worker with the order of Bishops" the presbyter is united in one brotherhood of service which takes many forms and which seeks to lead and sanctify through a service of love the priestly people gained by the suffering and death of the Lord.

ARTICLE I: PRESBYTERATE

Sec. 1. By virtue of their ordination all priests incardinated in the Diocese of Spokane belong to the presbyterate as co-workers with the Bishop. All religious priests and non-incardinated priests also share in this presbyterate.

ARTICLE II: PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL

Sec. 1. This Constitution establishes the statutes of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Spokane (can. 496).

Sec. 2. The Council shall be comprised of priests elected or appointed to the Council who reflect the diversity of the presbyterate and the regions of the diocese. Service on the Presbyteral Council is part of the ministerial responsibility of presbyters in the Diocese. (can. 499)

Sec. 3. The right to vote for members of the Presbyteral Council – as well as the right to be elected a member of the Council - is inclusive of all priests incardinated in the Diocese, as well as secular priests not incardinated in the diocese and priests of religious institutes, who reside in the Diocese and exercise some office for the good of the Diocese (can. 498)

Sec. 4. The Presbyteral Council shall be comprised of:

- (i) A priest elected from each of the deaneries of the Diocese defined in Rules of Order for elections.
- (ii) Three priests elected to "at-large" positions.
- (iii) One Religious priest appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the local superiors of houses in the Diocese.
- (iv) A senior priest appointed by the Bishop

- (v) The Bishop may appoint additional priests to the Council (cf. can. 497 1°).
- (vi) The Vicar General and Episcopal Vicars are *ex officio* members of the Council.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

Sec. 1. Exercising its canonical responsibility in a spirit of collaboration, the presbyterate – and in its name, the Presbyteral Council – assist the Bishop in his ministry of governing, teaching and sanctifying the local Church. With due regard for a diocesan synod or convocation, and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Presbyteral Council shall be the ordinary forum for consideration of issues which impact the pastoral welfare of the Christian faithful and the presbyterate.

Sec. 2. The Presbyteral Council is advisory to the bishop. The bishop is to hear the Council in affairs of greater importance and needs its consent in cases expressly defined by law. The bishop must consult the Council in the following instances:

- Can. 461, §1: The decision to convene a diocesan synod.
- Can. 515, §2: The establishment, suppression or notable modification of parishes (cf. also can. 813 permitting the bishop to set up a university parish).
- Can. 531: The allocation of offerings made by the faithful for parochial services and the remuneration of clerics for the same.
- Can. 536: The determination that there should be a pastoral council in each parish.
- Can. 1251, §2 The decision to build a new church (also to be consulted: rectors of neighboring churches).
- C. 1222, §2 The decision that a church, no longer able to be used for worship, be relegated to profane use. (Consent of those with vested rights is also required.)
- C. 1263: The exercise of his right to impose a moderate tax on juridic persons subject to him. (Finance council also to be consulted).
- Canons 1742, §1; 1745 °2; 1750: Propose names to the council for its establishment of a standing group of pastors from whom he will choose two to assist him in removing or involuntarily transferring a pastor.

Sec. 3. Priests elected to the Presbyteral Council to represent the deaneries are appointed as Deans (cf. can. 553) and are responsible for facilitating consultation among the pastors and parochial vicars in their respective regions. For particular pastoral issues, the Bishop may ask the deans to engage other priests, deacons or lay ministers who either minister or reside in the deanery.

Sec. 4. In circumstances which warrant it, the Religious priest on the Council and the senior priest member of the Council are responsible for facilitating consultation and dialogue in their associated groups.

ARTICLE IV: TERM OF OFFICE

Sec. 1. The term of office for elected and appointed members of the Council shall be for a period of three years, renewable without restriction.

Sec. 2. A priest's term of office becomes effective at the first meeting of the Presbyteral Council after August 31. An incumbent member of the Council retains his position until his replacement's term of office becomes effective.

Sec. 4. If a priest cannot complete his term, the position shall be filled by the Bishop's appointment or by special election or left vacant, according to the mind of the Bishop. In the case of a Dean, his replacement shall be determined according to the Rules of Order for elections.

Sec. 5. Resignation from the Council must be accepted by the Bishop.

Sec. 6. The Bishop may remove a member of the Council for a just cause.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The officers of the Presbyteral Council shall be the President, Chair and Vice-Chair.

Sec. 2. The President of the Council is the Diocesan Bishop. The President calls meetings of the Council, presides over its meetings, places matters of concern on its agenda, consults the Council and promulgates decisions arising from this consultation (*cf.* can. 500).

Sec. 3. The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council not presided over by the President; be the chief executive officer of the Council; and have the duties prescribed for this office by the President of the Council and by rules of order the Council may adopt.

Sec. 4. The Vice-Chair acts in the absence of the Chair and shall have the duties prescribed for his office by the President and by rules of order the Council may adopt.

Sec. 5. A recording secretary, not necessarily a member of the Council, shall be appointed by the President.

Sec. 6. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by simple majority vote by the members of the Council for one-year terms. No one may be re-elected to the same office for more than two consecutive terms. Election of officers shall take place at the first meeting of the Council after August 31.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Sec. 1. At least once a year the Bishop shall call together the entire presbyterate to reflect upon the status of the Diocese and to seek consultation on particular questions and issues presented by him, or recommended by the Presbyteral Council, the presbyterate or by others of the Christian Faithful.

Sec. 2. The Presbyteral Council shall meet at regularly scheduled times and when convened by the Bishop.

Sec. 3. The Executive Committee shall set the agenda for meetings of the Council. Any member of the presbyterate may propose an agenda item.

Sec. 4. The agenda for a regular meeting of the Council shall be distributed to the presbyterate via e-mail by the Vicar General at least one week prior to the meeting. If deanery gatherings are requested for consideration of an agenda item, ample time must be provided for doing so.

Sec. 5. Meetings of the Council shall follow the agenda. Unless approved for consideration *ad hoc* by the President, additional issues that arise at a meeting may be treated as recommended agenda items for the next meeting of the Council.

Sec. 6. Unless a particular meeting of the Council or a portion of a meeting has been closed by the President, other priests are welcome to attend regular meetings of the Council. They are not participants in the discussion unless arrangements have been made beforehand with the President or Chair, or the President invites their participation at the meeting.

Sec. 7. The decisions and recommendations of the Presbyteral Council normally shall be made by a consensus.

Sec. 8. After review by the Vicar General, the secretary distributes the minutes of meetings to the presbyterate.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. The Bishop, the Vicar General, the Chair and vice-Chair constitute the Executive Committee of the Presbyteral Council.

Sec. 2. The Council may establish standing and *ad hoc* committees to exercise designated responsibilities.

Sec. 3. The general scope of responsibility of any committee shall be determined by the Council.

Sec. 4. Members of a committee shall be recommended by the Council and appointed by the Bishop. Membership on committees is not limited to the presbyterate.

Sec. 5. Committees shall submit for the Council's review the methodology or rules of order by which they operate.

ARTICLE VIII: COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

Sec. 1. From among the members of the Presbyteral Council, the Bishop freely appoints six to twelve priests, who constitute the College of Consultors. The duties of the College are determined by law (cf. policy 2.06.03)

Sec. 2. The college is appointed for a term of five years.

Sec. 3. A member of the college whose term on the Presbyteral Council ceases remains a consultor, with due regard for the right of the Bishop to appoint him to the Presbyteral Council.

ARTICLE IX: EXPENSES

Sec. 1. Expenses incurred by the Presbyteral Council are diocesan administrative expenses.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. Amendments to this Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Council.

Sec. 2. Amendments must be affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Council before being recommended to the Bishop for approval.

ARTICLE XI: APPROVAL

Sec. 1. Having heard the Council in accord with can. 127, this Constitution becomes effective upon approval of the Bishop (can. 496).

Revision Approved: _____ (May 8, 2017)

+ *Most Reverend Thomas A. Daly*

Recorded: _____ (May 8, 2017)

Rev. Mark F. Pautler, Chancellor

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL - RULES OF ORDER FOR ELECTIONS

1. Deans are elected by the priests assigned to parishes and institutions of the Diocese within the deanery. A Dean, whose term is to expire, conducts the election. The election takes place at a meeting of the deanery or by a ballot provided for this purpose after pastoral assignments have been announced, but no later than July 31. Once appointed to a parish or institution, a priest acquires an active and passive vote for the office of Dean, even prior to the effective date of his assignment. However, he may participate in only one deanery election. *Ex officio* members of the Presbyteral Council are not eligible for the office of Dean, but other priests already on the Council may be elected.
2. When a Dean is no longer associated with the deanery, he relinquishes his position on the Council (with due regard for the right of the Bishop to appoint him to the Council), and another Dean is elected to complete his term. If he is an officer of the Council, the Council shall vote for his replacement.
3. After the election of Deans, the Chancellor conducts election of priests for the at-large positions on the Council.
4. The voting members of the presbyterate shall vote for as many candidates as there are at-large positions to be filled. After the first or nominating ballot, the number of candidates will be reduced to twice the number of candidates as positions to be filled. A second ballot will be conducted, and the candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be considered elected. Ties will be broken by chance drawing.
5. Amendments to these Rules of Order must be submitted in writing to the Council. Amendments must be affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Council before being recommended to the Bishop for approval.
6. The deaneries of the Diocese are identified as:

NORTH SPOKANE DEANERY	SOUTH SPOKANE DEANERY	EAST SPOKANE DEANERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assumption ● Mary Queen ● St. Aloysius ● St. Anthony ● St. Charles ● St. Francis of Assisi ● St. Joseph ● St. Francis Xavier ● St. Patrick ● St. Thomas More 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● St. Augustine ● St. Peter ● Our Lady of Fatima ● Our Lady of Lourdes ● Sacred Heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Ann ● St. John Vianney ● St. Paschal ● St. Joseph [Otis Orchards] ● St. Mary [Spokane Valley] ● St. Joseph [Rockford]

2.06.01 Presbyteral Council Constitution

NORTHERN DEANERY		WESTERN DEANERY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chewelah Valley Springdale Jump Off Joe ● Colville Northport Kettle Falls ● Colbert ● Deer Park ● Newport Metaline Falls Usk Ione Kalspel Res. ● Suncrest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary of the Rosary Holy Ghost Sacred Heart St. Joseph Immaculate Conception Pure Heart of Mary Sacred Heart St. Joseph St. Mary Presentation St. Anthony St. Joseph St. Jude St. Bernard Our Lady of Sorrows Our Lady of the Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cheney ● Brewster Twisp ● Davenport Harrington Wellpinit West End Ford ● Medical Lake ○ Reardan ○ Sprague ● Okanogan ● Omak Omak Nespelem ● Oroville Tonasket ● Keller Inchelium ● Republic Curlew ● Wilbur Odessa Ritzville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Rose of Lima Sacred Heart St. Genevieve Immaculate Conception St. Francis Sacred Heart Lady of Lourdes St. Philip Benizi St. Anne St. Michael Mary Queen of Heaven Our Lady of the Valley St. Joseph St. Mary Mission Sacred Heart Immaculate Conception Holy Rosary St. Rose of Lima St. Michael Immaculate Conception St. Patrick Sacred Heart St. Joseph St. Agnes
PALOUSE DEANERY			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarkston ● Colfax LaCrosse ● Colton Uniontown ● Pomeroy Waitsburg Dayton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Family St. Patrick St. Joseph St. Gall St. Boniface Holy Rosary St. Mark St. Joseph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pullman ● Pullman ● Tekoa Oakesdale ● Rosalia St. John 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacred Heart St. Thomas More Sacred Heart St. Catherine Holy Rosary Our Lady of Perpetual Help
SOUTHERN DEANERY			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connell Eltopia Basin City ● Othello 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Vincent St. Paul Apostle San Juan Diego Sacred Heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pasco ● Walla Walla Walla Walla Walla Walla 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Patrick St. Patrick St. Francis Assumption

RULES OF ORDER APPROVED BY: _____ (May 8, 2017)

+ *Most Reverend Thomas Daly*

Recorded By: _____ (May 8, 2017)

Rev. Mark Pautler, Chancellor