

**EMAIL TO PASTORAL COUNCIL REGARDING
2019 PASTORAL COUNCIL DISCERNMENT PROCESS**

Date: Tue, May 21, 2019 at 9:19 PM
Subject: URGENT REQUEST TO PASTORAL COUNCIL
To: <pastoralcouncil@sfxavier.org>

Please excuse the lateness of this request, but we strongly urge you to postpone the upcoming election of members to the council. We believe we are not alone in perceiving that this process of “discernment” has led to a sense of exclusivity since its structure provides for a very limited time frame to allow a significant number of people to participate and vote.

Furthermore, the process can be seen as demeaning to those people willing to volunteer time and effort to the council sitting through the series of voting. As a matter of fact, I, myself, and others I know have experienced not only extreme discomfort as the votes for them go up and down, but now feel would we never subject ourselves to that process again and we have heard that many people are discouraged from entering their names because they know of this process.

And, finally, we think that the process of having a handful of parishioners and the pastoral council members be the only ones voting for new members could lead to exclusive agendas. We are not saying, nor ever have seen anything that suggests exclusivity or behavior that hasn't been in the interest and well being of our community. However, the smaller the group that decides who its members will be, the greater the possibility of exclusivity - in direct opposition to our mission to be inclusive and transparent.

We ask you please to make announcements this weekend that the election is being postponed until the Fall and call for a parish meeting to let people express their opinions about how to vote for new members. Let's see if we are not accurate that a greater number of people want to vote and will when it's more accessible to them. The voting process could include creating videos for each 'candidate' to be available online as well as written statements included in the bulletin opening up the ability of all parishioners to discern!

We strongly recommend this action- especially before the new pastor arrives- to bring in people chosen by a greater swath of parishioners.

Thank you for considering our request

Respectfully submitted by,
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