

Parish Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is a collaborative body of laypeople, clergy, and religious who, together with the pastor, support the parish as a vibrant faith community. The council's primary mission is to assist the pastor in ministering to the parish by identifying its needs and developing plans to address them in alignment with diocesan goals. Through prayerful discernment, the Parish Pastoral Council serves as an advisory body, providing valuable insights and fostering co-responsibility in parish life.

This council plays a crucial role in guiding the parish toward fulfilling the Church's mission of stewardship and evangelization. While Canon Law affirms that ultimate authority and accountability rest with the pastor, decisions are to be made collaboratively and collegially, embodying the spirit of co-responsibility.

Purpose

The Parish Pastoral Council exists to:

- Assist the pastor in identifying and addressing the needs of the parish.
- Develop plans that align with the diocesan goals to strengthen the parish's mission.
- Serve as a prayerful and discerning advisory body that fosters co-responsibility and collaboration.
- Promote a synodal spirit of shared decision-making while observing the pastor's ultimate canonical authority.

Membership

Ideal members of the Parish Pastoral Council are:

1. **Active and Engaged**
Individuals who are already involved in ministries or activities within the parish, demonstrating a commitment to its mission and life.
2. **Commitment to Church Teachings**
Parishioners who consistently uphold and support Catholic doctrine and values in their decisions and actions.
3. **Discernment-Oriented**
Those who approach their role with prayerful reflection, seeking to understand how the Holy Spirit is guiding our parish community.
4. **Collaborative**
People with a spirit of cooperation, openness to dialogue, and the ability to work effectively in a team.
5. **Diverse Representation**
Individuals who reflect the demographic and cultural diversity of the parish community to ensure all voices are heard.

Term

Members serve for a three-year term, renewable for one additional term.

- After two consecutive terms, members must observe a two-year hiatus before becoming eligible for reappointment.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Parish Pastoral Council is entrusted with the following responsibilities:

- Facilitate communication and collaboration between ministries, organizations, and the broader parish community.
- Collaborate with the Parish Finance Council to ensure alignment of financial planning with pastoral goals.
- Provide an annual report to the parish community, detailing achievements, financial updates, and work plans.

Parish Council at St. Peter's

To enhance unity and co-responsibility in our parish, the council at St. Peter's will include:

- Representatives nominated by pastoral teams from each of the five key areas of parish life.
- Members from ministries with the largest membership.
- One member directly appointed by the pastor.
- Another member selected from a list of names suggested by parishioners, fostering active participation.

This approach underscores the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility in building a flourishing parish community.