



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE *of*
SACRAMENTO

BUILDING A STRONG PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

Every Pastor has two consultative bodies:

A Parish Finance Council
&
A Parish Pastoral Council



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

FINANCE COUNCIL

*Assists the Pastor with the
financial management of the parish*

(Canon 537 & Diocesan Statute 59)



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

FINANCE COUNCIL

- Its members are to be skilled in financial affairs and civil law and persons of outstanding integrity
- Council should have no less than three but not more than five members
- Members should not include anyone who may have a conflict of interest
- Parish employees and deacons may not serve as members though they may serve as staff to the council.



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

*Advises the pastor about
pastoral tasks or care in the parish*

(Canon 536 & Diocesan Statute 58)



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Its members should be of proven faith with sound morals, demonstrate the gifts of wisdom and prudence, and be willing to commit their time, talent and wisdom in a ***consultative and collaborative manner***
- Council should have no less than six but not more than fifteen members



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

ALL COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES MUST

- Be a baptized and confirmed member of the Church
- Be a registered member of the parish supporting & participating in life of parish
- Be a Catholic in good standing



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

ALL COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATES MUST

- Have a basic understanding of/commitment to the Church & the principals of Vatican II
- Be willing to work and commit to a two or three year term
- Be willing to speak out at council meetings
- Be open minded towards the ideas of others and treat both ideas and others with respect



HISTORY OF FINANCE COUNCILS

- **1983 Code of Canon Law** required a Finance Council for every parish.
 - Can. 537: *In each parish there is to be a finance committee to help the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to can. 532.*
 - Can. 532: *In all juridical matters, the parish priest acts in the person of the parish, in accordance with the law. He is to ensure that the parish goods are administered in accordance with can. 1281-1288.*
- **The 3rd Diocesan Synod** re-echoed the requirement of a Parish Finance Council in every parish. (11/2006)



HISTORY OF PASTORAL COUNCILS

- **Second Vatican Council** highly recommended councils as a means of promoting pastoral activity. It allowed & encouraged greater participation of the laity.
- **1983 Code of Canon Law** recommended councils for every parish if the Bishop judged them to be opportune.



HISTORY OF PASTORAL COUNCILS

- **Bishop Francis Quinn** *requested* that all pastors establish Parish Pastoral Councils. (1984)
- **Bishop William Weigand** *mandated* Parish Pastoral Councils for the Diocese of Sacramento on April 5, 1999..... beginning in the year 2000.
- **The 3rd Diocesan Synod** re-echoed this mandate and called for the establishment of Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils in every parish. (11/2006)



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

Consultative means...

- The canonical concept of consultation implies more than passively listening to opinions.
- It is based on the conviction that there is genuine wisdom – *God's wisdom* – in the community and the leader must strive earnestly to learn it.



CONSULTATIVE BODIES TO THE PASTOR

*Finance Councils & Pastoral Councils
are advisory bodies – not decision makers.*

* Voting should not be used as a method
for reaching decisions.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Mature pastoral leadership

- Pastor values consultation, deliberation, and full participation of all members.
- Pastor believes in the role and value of a Council.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Parish Council members are representative of the parish community

- Council make-up should be reflective of the parish.
- Members do not represent a particular group, agenda or perspective.
- Selection, invitation and appointment of members are done by the pastor



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Clear Terms & Term Limits

- Members serve a two year term, renewable once, or one three year term (Parish Council)
- Members serve a three to five year term, renewable once (Finance Council)



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Well Planned Agendas

- Agenda items set by Pastor and Council Chair
- Time limit of 90 minutes for meetings
- Assignment of allotted time for each topic



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Council Meetings held on a regular basis

- Meetings are monthly or at least nine times a year (Pastoral Council)
- Meetings are held at least quarterly (Finance Council)
- Meeting dates are pre-set for the year.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Officers: **Chair**

- Appointed by the Pastor
- Facilitates Council discussions
- Sets agenda with the Pastor



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Officers: **Vice-Chair**

- Appointed by the Pastor
- Assists the Chair & facilitates meetings in absence of chair



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Officers: **Secretary**

- Appointed by the Chair
- Keeps the Minutes at the meetings and maintains a record of all Council Minutes
- Sends agenda & supporting documents to each member one week before each meeting



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Council Meetings are Invitational

- Pastor needs to speak frankly & confidentially
- Equally important that members give their opinions



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Other Possible Alternatives

- Town Hall Meeting as a pastoral forum
- Listening sessions
- Use of parish surveys



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

A Pastoral Council's Role is to enhance
the process of:

- Pastoral Planning
- Developing pastoral programs
- Improving pastoral services
- Evaluating the pastoral effectiveness of various ministries and services



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Sample Agenda Items

- Welcoming of newcomers
- Catholic education of children & young adults
- Programs of sacramental life & preparation
- Programs promoting gospel values and social justice
- Outreach to alienated Catholics



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

Sample Agenda Items

- Efforts at building community
- Efforts of special care for the sick and dying
- Multi-cultural / multi-ethnic issues
- Effective participation in the liturgy
- Outreach & inclusion of youth and young adults in life of parish



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

What a Pastoral Council does *not* do

- Employ, supervise or evaluate the pastor or staff
- Make administrative decisions for the pastor or staff



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COUNCILS

What a Pastoral Council does *not* do

- Have oversight of parish finances or operating budget
- Talk outside Council meetings inappropriately
- Act as an adversary to the pastor or staff



VACANCY OF THE OFFICE OF PASTOR

When a parish becomes vacant due to transfer, retirement, or death of the pastor, the Finance Council and Pastoral Council ceases.



VACANCY OF THE OFFICE OF PASTOR

The new Pastor / Parochial Administrator will establish the Councils anew within two months of the date of installation.



VACANCY OF THE OFFICE OF PASTOR

The Pastor after a period of at least six months, through mutual dialogue & prayer, will determine if any changes in membership and/or direction are necessary.



HOW DOES MY PARISH FIT INTO THE DIOCESAN STRUCTURE?



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

- Comprised of 20 counties
- Covers 42,597 square miles
- Spans the northern and eastern regions of California
- 102 Parishes with 42 mission churches
- Geographically, the diocese is divided into 12 Deaneries



DEANERY STRUCTURE

Why Deaneries?

- Facilitates the convening of priests and pastoral leaders
- Provides an important link between parishes & the diocese
- Allows for collaboration and the sharing of best practices and resources
- Honors and recognizes the unique diversities represented throughout such a large area



DEANERY STRUCTURE

The Role of Deans

- Each deanery has a dean that is the diocesan bishop's appointed representative within a deanery
- Appointed for a three year term
- Tasked with organizing & facilitating a meeting of all priests within his deanery every other month.



DEANERY STRUCTURE

Diocesan Pastoral Council

- **Twelve (12) lay representatives from deaneries**
- Eight (8) at-large appointees to achieve inclusive representation
- Two (2) clergy, one of which is a deacon
- Two (2) religious, one of which must be a woman
- One (1) Newman Catholic Center student
- One (1) Catholic High School senior



DEANERY STRUCTURE

Lay Deanery Representative

- Tasked with organizing & facilitating a meeting in the Fall and in the Spring with Parish Council Chairs in their perspective deaneries
- Done in coordination with the Dean in attendance



DEANERY STRUCTURE

Purpose of Deanery Meetings

- Provides a pathway for the Bishop to communicate with parishes & for parishes to communicate back to the Bishop
- Provides an opportunity for collaboration & sharing of resources between parishes

**Who is your Deanery Representative
and your Dean?**



DEANERY STRUCTURE

Post Convocation Material

- List of the 12 Deaneries
 - ✓ Will include the name of your Dean and your Deanery Representative from the Diocesan Pastoral Council
 - ✓ List the upcoming Spring Deanery meeting in your area in the next 3 weeks. If you would like to attend, you will have the contact information for your Deanery Representative.



CONCLUSION

“ The activity of the laity within church communities is so necessary that without it, the Apostolate of the pastors is generally unable to achieve its full effectiveness....

*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, 10
November 18, 1965*

