

Parish Pastoral Council Forum

October 29, 2018



Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Who is the Pastoral Council in Relationship to:
 - The Mission of the Church
 - Planning for a Changing Church
 - The Rest of the Parish
 - Best Practices
- Closing Prayer



Opening Prayer

All Saint's Day

2nd Reading, 1 John 3:1-3

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us

is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Those who have this hope based on him make themselves pure, as he is pure.

Opening Prayer

- Discussion Question

- What is a concrete way our pastoral council can remind those around us that they are children of God and help them strive to become the people God calls them to be?



The Mission of the Church

- “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...”
(Matthew 28:19)
- All of the actions of the pastoral council should focus on the Church’s mission.



The Mission of the Church

- **Evangelization** – How do we reach out and invite people to follow Jesus Christ and to join our parish community?
- **Worship** – How do our weekend Masses strengthen our parishioners' faith and prepare them to live that faith?
- **Word** – How do we provide faith formation opportunities for all age levels and cultures in our community?
- **Service** – How does our parish reach out to those who are poor, afflicted, lonely, or refugees?
- **Parish Community** – How do we create a spirit of warmth and hospitality within our parish?
- **Parish Stewardship** – How do we encourage people to offer their time, talent, and treasure in service to God and others?
- **Leadership Development** – How do we prepare parishioners to use their talents in their daily lives and parish ministries?

Particular Role of the Pastoral Council within the Parish



- “Unlike the parish staff, the Pastoral Council is not a group of experts in catechesis, liturgy, pastoral care or education. **The Council’s primary gift is practical wisdom.** The Council is made up of parishioners who have a vested interest in the life and development of the parish and want to help the pastor (pastoral administrator) in this regard.”
- This “practical wisdom” allows you to advise your pastor (or pastoral administrator) on how to live the mission of the church in your context.

Discussion Questions

- How does our parish live the mission of the Church?
- Is there an element of the mission of the Church that gets overemphasized at our parish? Or an element that gets neglected?

Planning for a Changing Church as a Pastoral Council

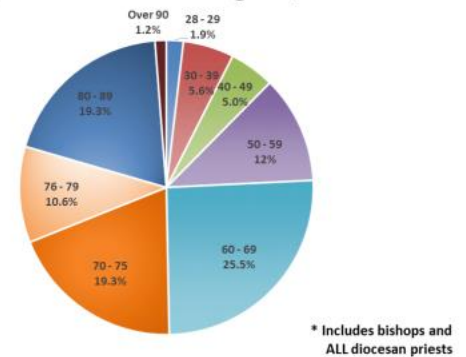
● Our Shifting Demographics

- The Ages of our Priests
- Sacramental Celebrations

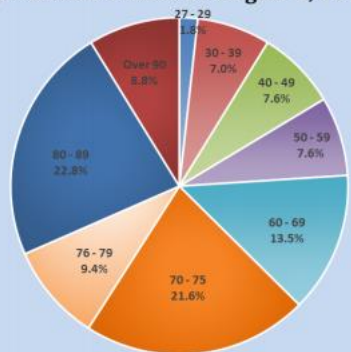
● The Wider Context

- The Impact of the Sex Abuse Crisis

Ages of DOR Priests on August 1, 2017



Ages of DOR Priests on August 1, 2022



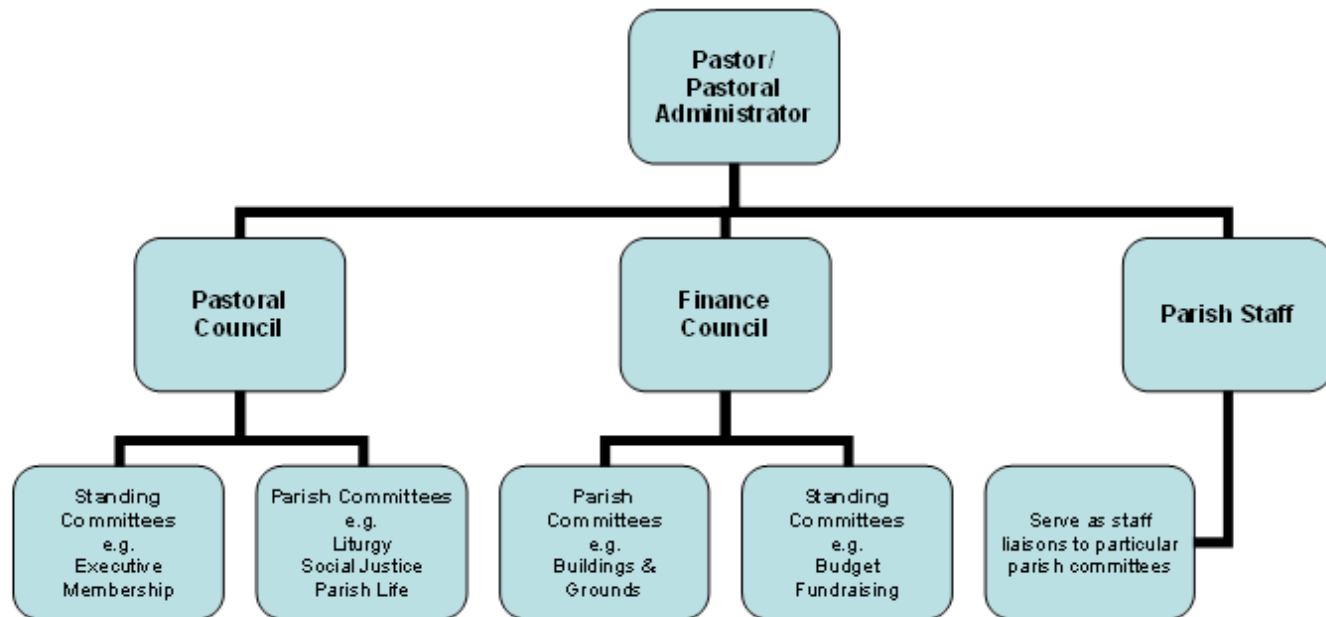
Who Are We, As a Pastoral Council, in Relation To...

- Trustees
- Pastor/Pastoral Administrator
- Parish Staff
- Pastoral Council
- Finance Council
- Parish Committees



Relationships within the Parish

RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN A PARISH



Relationships within the Parish

Parish Roles and Responsibilities

	Parish Staff	Pastoral Council	Finance Council
Role of Pastor/Pastoral Administrator	Oversees daily operations	Presides over	Presides over
Membership	Hired or appointed	Selected through parish discernment process	Appointed
Focus	Day-to-day ministry	Long-range pastoral planning	Long-range financial planning
Areas of Responsibility	Matters pertaining to a job description or a specific area of parish life	Matters pertaining to the life of the whole parish: essential elements	Matters pertaining to budget, facilities, and development
Relationship to Pastoral Plan	Assists as resource	Develops, monitors, and evaluates plan	Assists as resource
Relationship to Pastor/Pastoral Administrator	Accountable to pastor/pastoral administrator	Consultative to pastor/pastoral administrator	Consultative to pastor/pastoral administrator

Adapted from
Revisioning the Parish Pastoral Council: a Workbook
 By Mary Ann Gubish and Susan Jenny, S.C. with Arlene McGannon
 Paulist Press, 2001

Best Practices



The pastoral council furthers the mission of the Church by participating in planning and decisions that are

- Mission driven

- Reference the “Mission of the Church” Section

- Data informed

- Reference the “Planning for a Changing Church” Section

- Discernment derived

What Makes A Pastoral Council Effective?



- Centrality of prayer in the Council's time together
 - Pray for the parish, pray at beginning and end of meetings, pray as part of discerning the direction for the parish
- Balance between relationship building and task performance

What Makes A Pastoral Council Effective?

- Regular, two-way communication with the parish at large
- Involvement of parishioners in planning the parish's future



What Makes A Pastoral Council Effective?

- Attention to Council orientation, formation (prayer, community building) and education
- Development of an overall work plan for the year
- An environment of openness and trust where disagreement is allowed and encouraged but with respect for others and their opinions

What Makes A Pastoral Council Effective?

Good meeting practices (see meeting brochure)

- Agenda topics related to one of the areas of Church Mission (evangelization, liturgy, service, etc.)
- Starting and ending at an agreed upon time
- Opening prayer & faith sharing
- Distributing minutes, including what was discussed and who was present, in a timely manner



Closing Remarks

- What have we not covered that you want covered?
- Questions? Comments?

Closing Prayer

- Intercessions

- Response: *Gracious God, hear our prayer.*

- Closing (all):

Our Lord God...

We do not really know ourselves, and the fact that we think we are following your will does not mean that we are actually doing so.

But we believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you and we hope that we have that desire in all that we are doing.

And we know that if we do this, you will lead us by the right road.

You are ever with us and you will never leave us to face our perils alone.

Amen

- Adapted from a prayer of Thomas Merton, *Prayers in Solitude*

Resources

● Pastoral Services Website

- <http://ps.dor.org/>

- Our contact information, our offices, and other information about the Office of Pastoral Services can be found here.

● Pastoral Council Resources

- <http://ps.dor.org/parish-support/pastoral-councils/>

- This page includes meeting prayer guides, update newsletters, and other resources.

● Diocesan Resources and Planning

- <http://oprp.dor.org/>

- This page includes information about planning groups, an interactive map of our diocese, a spiritual gifts assessment, diocesan statistics and resources, and contact information for the Resources and Planning staff.