

## **DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL GUIDELINES**

Pastors are encouraged to establish parish pastoral councils. In the case of multiple parishes entrusted to a single pastor, it is possible to establish a single Pastoral Council for the parishes (cf. Pastoral Conversion, n. 108).. Parish pastoral councils are not mandated, but “they may be considered as highly recommended” (cf. Pastoral Conversion, n. 108).

Parish Pastoral Councils have a consultative function.

A Parish Pastoral Council's basic purpose and function is to assist the pastor by providing recommendations regarding:

- the mission of evangelization;
- parish vision for the future;
- evaluation of pastoral ministries and their effectiveness in meeting parish needs;
- general directions, priorities, goals and objectives, long and short range plans, and;
- communications and understanding within the parish, between parishes, the Diocese and universal Church.

The Parish Pastoral Council is consultative to the pastor and assists in fostering pastoral activity. The Council is Focused on mission and does not intervene in the governance and administration of the parish.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

A Parish Pastoral Council's size should be large enough to allow for the needed expertise and small enough to be efficient and effective. It should effectively represent the parish community in its membership (priests, deacons, religious and laity) (Pastoral Conversion, n. 112).

Council members should be baptized and confirmed Catholics in good standing with the Church and active participants in the life of the parish.

## **SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

Council members may be chosen in many ways. Given the nature of a Parish Pastoral Council, a process of selection seems better than simply the more familiar process of political election.

Each parish selects a designated number of people, usually at least two for each position to be filled, who meet the above qualifications. They may be suggested by present council members, pastoral staff or by the parish at large. After confirming their willingness to serve, selection is made by a random drawing to fill the needed positions with those not drawn serving as alternates should there be a need.

Some members may also be specifically appointed by the pastor .

While terms of office may vary, three-year terms are recommended. Terms of the members should be staggered to allow a few new people every year and so that members serve no more than two consecutive terms.

## **SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

It is recommended that the parish pastoral council have a chair, vice-chair and secretary, who are selected by the members of the council.

## **MEETINGS**

The frequency of meetings is determined by the pastor in consultation with the council. Since it is the role of the council to advise the pastor, the council should not meet unless the pastor is present.

## **COMMITTEES**

The parish pastoral council may have subcommittees or ad hoc committees which are given specific tasks, if this is deemed necessary.

Revised: September 30, 2021