



July 01, 2018

Dear Parishioners:

Beginning this weekend (June 30th and July 01st) *(on the other side of this insert)* you will find some information on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and selecting parishioners to serve on it. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has directed that every parish have a PPC. The purpose of the PPC is to give a means for lay people to share in the life of the Church. This is a way for lay people to bring their talents and insights for the good of the whole parish. In short, it is a means for lay people to live out their baptism.

In a very concrete way, the PPC is a group of parishioners who meets regularly with the pastor to give advice on the direction of the parish. The members are to help the pastor understand and better respond to the pastoral needs of the parish. Members have the opportunity to help the pastor be more informed on the needs of the parish. Members can help the pastor and pastoral staff hear things which they might not hear, positive things they hear, questions they hear, or constructive suggestions which they may hear. At the same time, it is an opportunity for members to hear from the pastor and the parish staff what is happening in the parish. Thus, they are better able to inform parishioners when opportunities arise.

I consider the PPC an integral part of my ministry here at St. Augustine's, not so much to be doing things (although they do a great deal), but to be thinkers and dreamers with me of the needs of the parish and how to best respond to them. I depend on the PPC a great deal.

We are in the beginning stages of selecting three new members for the PPC.

Beginning this weekend and until August 31st, a parishioner could nominate himself or herself to serve on the council for a three-year term beginning in September. Nominees are to be at least 18 years of age, registered parishioners and practicing Catholics. If someone is nominated by another person, the nominee will be contacted to see if he or she is willing to serve the community in this way. Nominees should be aware that the Council meets on a monthly basis. Currently, meetings take place on the last Wednesday of the month. Nominees should be aware that at times they may be asked to serve on a sub-committee.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another parishioner to serve on the PPC, please do so by using the form on the reverse side of this insert. You can place the form in the collection basket, mail it to the parish office or give it to a member of the parish staff.

The names of all those who are nominated will be placed in a bowl and three names will be drawn from that bowl at the Masses on September 08th and 09th. This is consistent with how the successor of Judas was selected (Acts 1:26).

In a very thoughtful and prayerful way, please consider participating in this process, either by nominating yourself or someone else for this very important ministry in the parish.

Have a great week.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Father Bill

PRINCIPLES

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia every parish is to have one Parish Pastoral Council which is to foster full participation of the entire parish - clergy, religious, laity - in the pastoral life and mission of the parish and of the Universal Church. The following principles guide the formation of Parish Pastoral Councils:

1. Every Parish Pastoral Council is to develop a statement of purpose which reflects the identity and mission of the parish in light of the Gospel, Church teachings and the specific realities of the parish.
2. The Parish Pastoral Council is solely a consultative body with the role of advising and assisting the Pastor in areas of pastoral concerns.
3. The Parish Pastoral Council develops and recommends parish pastoral plans and directions through a consensus process and prayerful reflection.
4. Every Parish Pastoral Council in its membership should be representative of the entire parish, recognizing and reflecting the parish's rich diversity.
5. The Parish Pastoral Council is to cooperate with parish committees which address such areas of parish life as worship, spirituality, community, evangelization, education, and service.
6. It is the responsibility of the Pastor to convoke the Parish Pastoral Council, to preside over it, and to determine the issues to be treated by it or to receive proposals from its members.

FUNCTION

The general function of the Parish Pastoral Council is to advise the Pastor in those pastoral matters presented to it by the Pastor. It carries out its function by:

1. Informing the Pastor of the needs and concerns, gifts and resources of the whole parish and its members;
2. Developing and reviewing a parish mission statement (which will always contain the name of Jesus) and periodically re-evaluating and revising it;
3. Developing a parish pastoral plan;
4. Participating in ongoing pastoral planning;
5. Recommending policies, procedures and programs which would assist in the implementation of the mission statement and the parish pastoral plan;
6. Reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of existing programs;
7. Reflecting on Archdiocesan pastoral priorities and recommending how they can be implemented in the parish.

TERMS OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS

- Elected and appointed members serve a three year term with the possibility of serving a second term. Elected and appointed members may serve only two consecutive terms.
- Normally, not more than one third of the Council's membership should be changed at one time.
- In a newly formed Council one third of the membership serves a three year, a two year and a one year term, respectively. Those serving a one year term in a newly formed Council may serve for two additional consecutive terms.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

I, _____ would like to nominate:

Please Print Your Name

Myself Your Phone #: _____ Your email: _____

Another Parishioner: _____

Please Print Their Name Clearly

Their phone number: _____ Their Email Address: _____