

Our Mother of Consolation Parish Pastoral Council

Purpose – Profile - Composition – Selection

Adopted December 2005 - Revised September 2010

Purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council explores ideas and recommends pastoral plans and directions with the objective of enhancing the quality of parish life, promoting parish vitality and helping each other to celebrate our faith and to achieve the goals of a life in Christ.

The Parish Pastoral Council will:

1. assist the pastor in parish affairs as an advisory body;
2. represent and reflect the entire parish community;
3. foster participation of all parishioners in the life of the parish; and
4. work with the entire parish to implement the Parish Pastoral Plan.

Profile of the Parish Pastoral Council Member

Parish Pastoral Council Members are rooted in the Catholic faith and in advancing their spirituality by seeking holiness through a daily prayer life. They seek God's will in their lives and manifest the teachings of Jesus Christ through charitable dealings with people. They embrace the diversity of the Catholic Church. Members are active Catholics practicing at OMC and open to receiving the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Members are compassionate, generous of spirit and committed to promoting the life and good of the whole parish while fostering the life and the mission of the Church. They are able to comprehend and to represent the views and needs of others.

Members possess a broad and long term perspective of the implications that recommendations of the Pastoral Council will have on the OMC community. They actively participate by presenting opinions and are open to discussing and considering alternative points of view.

Members are willing to commit personal time for the purpose of Council meetings, prayerful reflection, planning activities and parish interaction.

Composition of the Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Pastoral Council is composed of the following:

Pastor	Six Selected Members
Parochial Vicar/Pastoral Associate	Three Appointed Members
One Appointed Parish Staff Member	Two Appointed Teen Members
One Finance Council Member	Recording Secretary

Appointments are made by the pastor after appropriate consultation and prayer to reflect the diversity in the parish community. Non-appointed members are selected in accordance with the selection procedures described below. Members will serve three-year terms. Changes to this council composition may be made by the Parish Pastoral Council once it is installed.

Selection Process for Council Members

In defining the selection process for the Council selected members, the goal is to implement a process that reflects the history of the church, removes politics from the process, invokes the guidance of the Holy Spirit and encourages parishioners to nominate themselves and others. In seeking guidance from Scripture and in exploring the many options in Church history, the selection process is modeled after the practice of drawing lots, as described in the Acts of the Apostles

They proposed two; Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, "You Lord, who knows the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." Then they gave lots to them and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted upon the eleven apostles. (Acts 1:24-26)

The first step in the process is communicating the 'Purpose of Parish Pastoral Council', 'Profile of Council Members' and the timeline for installation of Parish Pastoral Council to the parish community. After this, nominations are solicited from the parish over a period of two weeks, using this nomination form. All nominees are contacted to gather their personal information and confirm their commitment to participating on Council. The names of all nominees are shared with the entire parish. The parish then joins together to pray for these individuals and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the process.

Selection Sunday: Names of all nominees are placed in a basket and the basket is included in the procession so that parishioners at all the masses can pray for the nominees. The selection process occurs on Selection Sunday at the end of the 11AM Mass. The pastor draws names from the basket. Members selected will serve terms of three years.

The entire new Parish Pastoral Council, including selected members and those appointed by the pastor, is communicated to the entire parish. The new Parish Pastoral Council is installed at Masses on a selected weekend.

