

## **Prayer for the Selection of New Pastoral Council Members**

O God,

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit  
to guide our parish in the selection of members  
for our pastoral council.

We are a parish that wants to do your will  
and carry out the mission Jesus entrusted to us.

Help us find the men and women who will work  
with our pastor and guide us in our mission.

We need men and women who will listen  
to the wisdom of the spirit and the needs of the people.

We need men and women who are open to the ideas of others  
and who will work to bring us all together in unity  
as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We need men and women who have a great love for you  
and for our parish.

Continue to bless our parish so we can be a people filled with joy and faith as we live out  
our call to follow your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

## **A Process for Selecting New Pastoral Council Members**

### **Parish Education**

1. Through homilies or announcements, let parishioners know about the pastoral council:
  - A body that is advisory to the pastor,
  - That listens to the parish,
  - That creates a pastoral plan of action,
  - That invites others to help carry out that plan
  - That assists parishioners with implementation through resources and evaluation.
  
2. Invite parishioners to nominate people they think have the qualities needed by a council member:
  - Prayerful
  - Ability to listen
  - A sense of understanding where the church is today
  - Understands or is willing to learn about the Mission of the Church and the Diocese
  - Enthusiastic about the future of this parish
  - Willing and able to make the commitment to this ministry
  
3. Invite all nominees to two evenings or Saturday discernment sessions using the suggestions for education and reflection on the following pages.

Possible Calendar for Selecting New Council Members:

Date	Action	Person responsible
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Announce the need for New Council Members Nomination Process begins	Pastor and Council Chair
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Homilies or announcements about the work of the Pastoral Council Nominations Process continues	Pastor
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Nominations Process continues	Council Chair and/or member
4 <sup>th</sup> Week	1 <sup>st</sup> Discernment Evening	Pastor, Council Chair, Facilitator
5 <sup>th</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Discernment Evening	Pastor is leader, Council Chair, Facilitator may assist
6 <sup>th</sup> Week	Names of new Council members and alternates are posted in the Bulletin	Pastor or Chair or Bulletin Coordinator

## Nominee for Pastoral Council

### These are some qualities of a pastoral council member:

- Prayerful
- Ability to listen
- A sense of understanding where the church is today
- Understands or is willing to learn about the Mission of the Church and the Diocese
- Enthusiastic about the future of this parish
- Willing and able to make the commitment to this ministry

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
because I have observed the following qualities in her/him.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **First Discernment Evening**

- 7:00pm      Gathering Prayer
- Vatican II and Baptismal Call to shared responsibility
- Pastoral Council – a way of shared responsibility
- The Mission of the Church
- The basic areas of parish life: Leadership, Community, Worship, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Social Ministry and Service
- 7:30pm      Clarifying our understanding of Pastoral Councils
- The purpose and focus of Council Ministry
- 7:45pm      Qualities and Gifts for Pastoral Council members
- Quiet time and sharing
- Gifts you bring to the council
  - Pastoral and Spiritual needs you see in the parish
  - Your vision for the parish
- 8:15pm      Decision to remain in process or not
- Questions to take home and reflect on for next evening
- Closing prayer

**First Evening of Discernment**  
**Reflection and Sharing questions**

1. The gifts that I bring to council ministry are:
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  
2. These are the spiritual and pastoral needs I see in the parish:
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  
3. I envision the parish five years from now as...

**Decision at close of First Evening:**

At this time I wish to

\_\_\_\_\_ continue in the discernment process

\_\_\_\_\_ discontinue in the discernment process

This is a thought I take away with me this evening

Other comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Some questions to ask for council discernment  
To take home for personal reflection in preparation for  
the Second Evening of Discernment**

1. How do I feel about being on the council?  
Am I feeling intent on being a new member?  
Am I feeling unworthy or ungifted?  
Am I feeling detached – I could go either way?  
  
Anything else?
  
2. What are the pros for me serving? (gifts, time in my life)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What are the cons? (circumstances)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What excites/interests me in being on the council?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What are my reservations?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. From the people gathered on the first evening, who do I think could best minister as a pastoral council member?



## **Second Evening of Discernment**

- 7:00pm      Gathering prayer
- Comments and Questions from the first session
- 7:15pm      Reflection on Discernment Questions
- Each person shares for a few minutes on his/her reflection on the discernment questions during the past week.
- 8:00pm      Quiet Reflection and Decision  
                 Each person decides whether to remain in the process or withdraw.
- 8:15pm      Closing prayer

## Commitment Card

For use at the end of the second evening of discernment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact:

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check as many as apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to leave my name in nomination for the Parish Pastoral Council

\_\_\_\_\_ Parish Council ministry is not my calling but I am willing to be involved with another parish ministry. Please indicate which ministries you are interested in:

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Ministry/Outreach      \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Education      \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Ministry

\_\_\_\_\_ Finance Council      \_\_\_\_\_ Building and Maintenance

\_\_\_\_\_ Lector      \_\_\_\_\_ Eucharistic Ministry      \_\_\_\_\_ Choir

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not able to commit to any parish ministry at this time but I will continue to prayer for our parish

### Final Selection:

At this point, the final selection follows the process the parish has decided on.

Some possibilities:

From the list of nominees who completed the discernment process:

1. Voting by all the parishioners for all or some of the council members.
2. Voting by all parishioners for some/half of the council members. The other half selected by the pastor or by the pastor and the council.
3. Voting by nominees for the best among them.