

Parish Pastoral Council Retreat Notes

February 1, 2024

Attendance: Heather Duggan, Matilda Owolagba, Peter Brimacombe, Tim Coonen, Grace Bruno, Anthony Zoccoli, Matthew Iwueze, Sheila Foy-Connolly, Chad Glendinning

Guest speakers: John Renken, Dorothy Wood

What does a Parish Pastoral Council do? What is our purpose? Where do we go from here?

Why are we here? What is our goal?

- continue our work in the parish
- to attempt to be spokespeople for parishioners; connect with parishioners (attend coffee after Mass, pizza dinners.
- assisting the Pastoral Team, offering advice and counsel.
- face of the parish, instrumental in general outlook of parish, fill the pews, make our parish bigger and better.
- hands on approach

Thoughts/Advice from John and Dorothy

- God, Faith, Theology, Canon Law
- PPC is a synodal body, doing planning in the parish, serving the needs of the parish.
- **Listen, Think, Decide**: identify needs, listen to parishioners, and then discern and make a decision
- Avoid using "parish council", use Pastoral Council (pastoral planning) and Finance Council (allocating resources). We are a Parish Pastoral Planning Council.
- Evangelize, church is not done in isolation, not me but us, watch the ego.
- What are the needs of the world in which we find ourselves?

Practical question for a PPC: how do we listen? How do we do pastoral planning?

- PPCs make decisions but not the job of PPCs to put them into practice.
- How do we identify needs? How do we meet the needs? Create an action plan.
- How do we bring people in?
- PPC plans and does not do. Not decision takers, we are decision makers.
- Discern what the needs of the parish are (beyond maintenance)
- Dream and then see what resources are available.
- Have a dedicated email address for PPC and/or comment cards available on the Welcome Table
- PPC must be a model of synodality. Listen from the heart and reach out.
- PPC is not just a consultative body. Don't use words like "just" or "only". Not limiting or defining.
- Pastor sees to putting the decisions made by PPC into practice.
- Pastor maintains commune, implement decisions that can be implemented.
- Identifying needs may be more complicated than putting comment cards in pews.
- **Look at updating the parish Constitution.**
- Parishes are not required to have Pastoral Councils, but they must have a Finance Council.

- Present something to the parish to comment on. Use Pastoral Plan to start. Use it as a working document and ask for comments from parishioners. **Take Pastoral Plan to parish.**
- Be leaders, have ear to the ground, not all parishioners are tuned in to the needs of the parish.
- There needs to be vision if we want to grow.
- **liaise with committees/ministries.**
- **have a joint Pastoral Council/Finance Council retreat**
- PPC members should have diverse skills.
- **Have an annual parish meeting after the annual parish report is published.**

Pastoral Plan

- Make it a 3-year plan?
- How do we address new needs and service on-going needs?
- Look at Synodal Circle data.
- Schedule future circle discussions on the needs of the parish
- Vision to move ahead.
- Market PPC as a group who want to hear from parishioners.