



EIGHT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NORMS FOR THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

PPCG 26-28

- A Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is to be established and operative in every parish, **to serve and unite** laity, religious and clergy in community prayer, Servant Leadership, service and pastoral action.
- This is a body of parishioner-representatives serving a consultative role to the pastor; **a wisdom group** commissioned to discern, proclaim, and manifest the presence and action of the Spirit within the parish community.
- The PPC exercises **shared responsibility** by examining and considering all that relates to pastoral work, and proposing practical ideas to the pastor and parish staff concerning the on-going life and mission of the parish.
- The PPC members develop and focus on a mission embracing the **total scope of parish life**; engage in **continuous pastoral planning**; formulate policy after **prayerful study and dialogue**, and embody **Servant Leadership**.
- The **pastor, as spiritual leader** and representative of the bishop in the parish, is the *ex-officio* member of the PPC and participates fully with all the other members as they discern what is best for the parish.
- The **pastor presides** by: attending meetings, ensuring that the scope of the Council's concerns reflect the entire mission of the church, enabling PPC members to build a community of faith and trust, providing training, assisting with agenda design, sharing in dialogue and supporting policy formation, modeling servant leadership.
- All PPC members are in **full communion** with the Catholic Church.
- Parish Pastoral Councils will be **assisted by the Office for Parish Life** to develop their own constitution and by-laws, and to establish and meet parish goals for Word, Worship, Service and Community.

Reflection/Discussion:

1. Consider your current experience of Parish Pastoral Council in light of each one of these norms. Which one(s) most closely describe your Council right now? Which one could you work on next for the most possible gain in effectiveness?
2. Invite to your meeting a member of the staff from Office for Parish Life to update them on your progress and seek their assistance in any way that fits for your PPC.

Next Meeting:

Agenda:

Prayer:

Homework: