

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