

# Our Mother of Consolation Parish Pastoral Council

## Purpose – Profile - Composition - Selection

### 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 and vicars in parish affairs as an advisory body addressing the pastoral concerns of the parish;
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 develop and implement a parish mission statement.

Pastoral Concerns: A helpful starting point in defining the purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council is an understanding of the pastoral issues or concerns that lie at the heart of the parish as a local embodiment of, and member in, Christ's Church on Earth. On behalf of all the members of the parish, and as an instrument through which the members can participate in and shape their parish life, the Parish Pastoral Council's efforts and considerations are centered around addressing these concerns. A representative listing of these concerns follows:

- How can we strengthen our parish as a faith community?
- In light of contemporary challenges to our faith, including those imbedded in our culture, how can we better reflect our faith in our day-to-day lives?
- Are there ways in which the overall prayer life of the parish or the quality of our liturgies should or can be enhanced?
- How is the parish keeping the faith alive, fresh and vigorous and passing it on through families, schools and religious education programs for all age groups and for all parts of the parish community?
- Is the parish community reaching out to those who have never heard the Good News or to those who have heard it but have turned away?
- What can the parish family do to aid those who are unemployed or homeless, who are hungry and hurting, aging, shut-in, addicted, lonely, those who are disadvantaged or disabled here in our own parish and neighborhood?
- What is the parish doing to promote peace and justice and to eliminate racism and other forms of injustice in our community?

### 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 pastor, parochial vicars, representative staff members and parishioners, as follows:

Pastor  
Parochial Vicars  
Two Appointed Parish Staff Members  
    Six Selected Members  
    Three Appointed Members  
    Two Appointed Teen Members

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. One appointed or selected member is a representative of the Finance Committee. Selected members serve two-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 nomination form provided. 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 six names from the basket. Members selected will serve terms of two years.\*

The entire new Parish Pastoral Council, including selected members and those appointed by the pastor, is communicated to the entire parish. All new members provide a biography of equivalent length along with a photo for publication in the bulletin and in the vestibule of the church.

The new Parish Pastoral Council is installed at Mass during Installation Weekend.

Adopted December 2005

# Our Mother of Consolation Parish

## Parish Pastoral Council Selections 2008

### Nomination Form

The nomination ballot establishes a list of parishioners willing to serve the parish community as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

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**Qualities of a 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.

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You may nominate up to three members of the parish who you think would be willing to serve as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Please print clearly

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO NOMINATE YOURSELF

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Nomination Ballots are due Sunday, January 6, 2008