

THE ROLE OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

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The role of the Parish Pastoral Council is to serve the reign of God and to establish God's reign among men and women. They serve as a support to the Pastor of the Parish not assuming his role of authority but sharing the large responsibility of caring and planning for the Family of Jesus, the parish. The parish pastoral council is given some authority and share in the responsibilities in the Parish to foster the growth of the Parish. But they must be conscience of giving the last say and their submission to whatever the pastor says. Our fallen nature tends to take control and be attached to our own ideas, will and way of doing things. In this case it is the role of the Pastor who will be answering to God and the Bishop with this mission he has been entrusted with. Therefore the relationship of Pastor to PPC is one of open communication, collaboration, respect, support, and above all obedience to the will of God spoken through the Pastor.



The roles of a Parish Pastoral Council are many and can change depending on the needs of a specific parish. Overall the PPC are serving in the areas of: Liturgy or Worship, community building, education and faith formation, as well as outreach and administration. Within these areas of concern the Parish Pastoral Council is responsible to form people to place their gifts at the service of the Kingdom of God, make a future plan for the objectives of the parish for the future years, while considering the past, present and future dynamics of the parish. According to the Bishops there are 3 elements to the functioning of the Pastoral council; investigate the happenings and pastoral issues of the parish by listening to the people of the parish. Secondly, after a time of prayer and consideration they discern how to respond to the matters of the parish. Lastly, the pastoral council is to formulate practical conclusions, including a pastoral plan.¹

As previously mentioned the responsibilities of a leading a parish are immense and therefore the Parish Pastoral Council can have different roles within different ministries of the Parish and offer support to the Pastor and his guidance of the Parish. The PPC Formation Manual compares their role of the ministry to that of Christ's ministry to better learn how to serve the parish. The six characteristics of Christ ministry are: the vocation of Jesus, showing that ministry is from God; a ministry of service; of love; of healing; of preaching and teaching; and lastly that his ministry is political.² These roles of ministry are most closely related to the role of the pastor but can be supported by the Parish Pastoral Council.

¹ Campbell, Jim, Snoddy, Debra, and McNally, *Parish Pastoral Council: A Formation Manuel*, Veritas Publications 2010, p. 25

² Campbell, 26

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