

Discerning the Membership of the Parish Pastoral Council



ST. JUSTIN'S PARISH

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Virtual Zoom Meeting

7:00 pm to 9:30 pm (for nominees)

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm (for current council members)

This discernment night is a night of listening to each other in the context of prayer, specifically prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance

Opening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Holy Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the Earth.

Jim Yanchula: Reading (Romans 12:2-18)

Now I urge you: do not conform yourself to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. For by the grace given to me I tell all of you not to think of yourselves more highly than you ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body, we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: If prophecy, in proportion to the faith, if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is a leader, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, and persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Introduction of nominees - 7:15 p.m.

Each nominee has 2 minutes or less to introduce him/herself

Chair:

- ◆ Invites each nominee to introduce him/herself to the group by way of mentioning:
 - ◆ Name
 - ◆ Length of time as a member of St. Justin’s parish
 - ◆ Ways in which they have been involved in the parish over the years
 - ◆ The church activity, ministry, or service they found most rewarding and why.

Chair (After each nominee’s self-introduction)

Let us pray in gratitude for the life of “nominee’s name” and all the gifts he/she has already shared with this faith community. May God continue to lead him/her in discipleship and service of Your people in this parish. Amen!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you “nominee’s name”

Leadership - 8:00 *(1 minute or less each candidate)*

Chair: Invites each nominee to answer the question:

- ◆ What gifts do you bring to the ministry of leadership and the Parish Pastoral Council?

Perspective 8:25 *(1.5 minutes or less per nominee)*

Our Parish Vision:

◆ **We aspire to be a welcoming, caring, and compassionate Catholic family where our diversity is nurtured and celebrated.**

- ◆ Each nominee is asked to choose one of the following questions (**different from the one in your written submission**) to answer:

1. What one thing do you think would make the biggest difference in the spiritual life of our parish?
2. What one thing do you think is the greatest need in the parish?
3. What is the greatest stumbling block to moving our parish forward?
4. If you could give all the people of our parish an injection of some spiritual gift, what would it be and why?

Q & A - 9:10 (1 minute or less per nominee)

Chair: Now that all have spoken, this is the time for questions and answers.

- ◆ Thanks the nominees for taking part in this discernment process and reminds them:
 - a. That Father Charles will personally call each one of them in the next three days to inform them whether their leadership has been called upon to be part of the upcoming PPC, and if not, what other ministries are they willing to be part of.
 - b. Should they be called upon to be part of the upcoming PPC, they will be provided with information on the “Installment of 2021-2022 Council”.
 - c. Their 1st PPC meeting (Zoom) will be Thursday, June 10th, 2021 at 7:00pm

Blessing and dismissal of all nominees – 9:25

Father Charles:

- ◆ Gives the nominees his blessing, and
- ◆ Asks them to leave the Zoom Meeting Hall.

PPC member's discernment - 9:30

Chair

- ◆ Invites each present PPC member to: (using a private messaging to Father Charles)
 - pray for guidance in silence
 - identify seven nominees whose gifts would contribute to the upcoming council,
 - declare their choices. and
 - briefly state the reasons.

Farewell to PPC members who are not returning

- ❖ Chair and Fr. Charles

Closing Prayer, dismissal, and blessing (10:00)

Chair:

Let us pray:

In gratitude for your presence with us, O Holy Spirit, we bring you thanks and praise. Now bless these, your upcoming PPC servants, as they assume the ministry of leadership among our parishioners. Give them unity, vision, wisdom, and a great love for you and your people. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our model, and our shepherd, now and forever.

Amen.

Role of the PPC

The principal role of the Council is pastoral planning. Pastoral planning is meant to ensure that the mission and vision of the diocese and parish guide the community into the future. Pastoral planning involves:

- developing a working vision for the parish for the following 3 to 5 years.
- discerning the will of God for this parish community by identifying, assessing and prioritizing pastoral needs;
- setting goals and developing objectives to meet those needs; and,
- recommending courses of action to the pastor or pastoral team members.

Council members may also be asked to evaluate ministry and programming in the parish.

The implementation of programming and ministry objectives is inconsistent with the Council's role. Should Council members participate in the implementation of recommended courses of action, they do so as regular parish volunteers and not as members of the Council.

The Executive of the Council is to prepare and forward a detailed agenda to the members of the Council at least one week in advance of the Council meeting date. The agenda is to detail the issues to be addressed and indicate the type of consultation desired (i.e. information only, input and consultation, rendering a decision, or evaluation). *Diocese of London Norms for Parish Pastoral Councils, March 2009 Page 4 of 4*

In providing recommendations or rendering decisions, Councils are to function through consensus.

The Council is not to create standing committees. Ad hoc committees may be formed to respond to specific needs such as researching issues, preparing surveys, polling parishioners and consulting with experts on behalf of the Council.

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