

Good Evening/Morning:

My name is Kim Klementowski and I'm here to talk to you about an exciting transition happening in OUR parish (yours and mine) - the transition is from a Parish Council to a Pastoral Council. I know that some of you are asking, "What's the difference?" because I did. My curiosity is what led me to attend a presentation back in January on moving from a parish council to a pastoral council and I found it so interesting that I volunteered to be part of the transition team.

Historically, the parish council has been made up of a group of leaders and "doers" within the parish, who would report on their activities and provide input on parish operations when requested by the Pastor. Many of these individuals serve on the various ministries or are parish staff. Parish Council's focus has been generally program or finance driven. This is where we are now.

A Pastoral Council focuses on the broader mission of the parish. Rather than being the "doers" they are the long range planners and goal setters. We have many wonderful ministries who do good things and will continue to be essential to the parish. Members of the Pastoral Council will act as ambassadors to the various ministries and help Father Jerry insure that all are working toward a common goal....fulfilling the mission of our parish. They also work as ambassadors for YOU to ensure that your concerns are being addressed.

Our current parish council has determined that shifting to a Pastoral Council model would be beneficial for our parish, and have taken the first critical step in this transition by developing a mission statement for our parish. Personally, I think they did a phenomenal job. This mission statement is printed on the front of our weekly bulletin and can also be viewed by visiting our Parish website.

The current parish council has also put a transition team in place to help move this process forward. The parish council held its last meeting earlier this month and beginning this fall, a new Pastoral Council will be in place and will be working with Father Jerry to set goals and objectives for our parish within the guidance and framework articulated in our mission statement.

While this transition has been a gradual, in-depth process over the past several months, the process will continue for a couple of more months culminating in discernment. The next three weeks however, will be critical. This is when we will nominate people and invite them to consider serving on the Pastoral Council.

This is where we need YOUR help. This is YOUR church and as such, YOU have a voice in determining who the members of Pastoral Council should be. Look around you and think about people who you think would best serve YOU and YOUR church on this council. It could be the person sitting next to you, a neighbor, friend, co-worker, teacher, coach...or you could nominate yourself. We're looking for people who embody the following characteristics:

- A person should be a baptized catholic, at least 16 years old or entering their junior year of high school, and a registered member of our parish
- A person who participates in the ongoing worship life of our parish, especially the celebration of Sunday Eucharist.
- A person who has a desire for spiritual growth in themselves and in the parish
- A person who is enthusiastic about the future direction of our parish
- A person who has the willingness to listen, speak honestly, and work towards consensus
- A person who is open and flexible to other people and ideas
- A person who has the ability to inspire and empower others and to delegate

Nomination forms will be available in the pews and at the entrances of the church beginning next weekend. We invite you to take a form home and prayerfully consider those who would be good candidates. We ask that all nomination forms be returned to the baskets in the gathering space or to the parish offices no later than June 7th.

We would like to highlight the fact that this is NOT in any way an election, but rather a nomination to enter the process. ALL parishioners who receive nominations will be invited to attend an informational meeting and then, if they choose to continue, they will participate in a formal discernment process, by which all members of the new Pastoral Council will be selected.

Members of the transition team will be available after each mass this weekend and at the Parish picnic to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you and God Bless.