

## **Role and function of St Boniface Parish Pastoral Council**

- The Pastoral Council is not simply one parish group among many others that make recommendations to the parish priest. Rather than focusing on a specific perspective, the PPC operates from a broad overview, promoting a sharing of responsibility for the development of a more vital Christian community. Its underlying aim is to encourage and support all members of the community in their efforts to respond to their baptismal call to participate in the mission of the Church. This goes beyond the maintenance of existing services to the community.
- The PPC is not a management or an administrative body (there is an existing finance committee for such matters). This does not mean that the PPC cannot discuss finances in view of developing and improving parish initiatives. It simply means that the main focus of the PPC is pastoral.
- The PPC will seek and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners. This requires that we consult the members of the parish and get to know their needs, wishes, suggestions – many times people will share ideas with members of the PC that they will not necessarily share with the priests.
- The PPC will grow in knowledge and awareness of what is already happening in the parish
- The PPC will encourage and support the good work of existing groups within the parish
- The PPC will set long-term and short-term pastoral goals for the parish. A key task of a PPC is pastoral planning, which seeks to determine effective ways for parishioners to be active in the life and mission of the Church. Key questions are: What aspects of parish life do you find helpful? What aspects of parish life require improvement or development? What new initiatives would you like to see introduced? What suggestions do you have for enriching the life of the parish?
  - Setting goals: Where are we now? Where do we want to be?
  - Planning Action: How and when will we get there?
  - Implementing: In what ways are our plans now in action?
  - Reviewing: What progress are we making? What adjustments are needed?

- The PPC will provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and with each other (Liturgy, spiritual conferences, Bible groups, pilgrimages, communal celebrations)
- The PPC will implement and improve parish initiatives that assist parishioners in their continuing efforts to live as effective Christians in society (spirituality , marriage and family, missionary outreach...)

### **1. Responsibilities of members**

- Attend the regular meetings of the PPC
- Provide input to deliberations of the PPC
- Develop a spirit of enquiry and the ability to listen and understand the issues affecting the lives of parishioners
- Provide prayerful support and encouragement for other members of the PPC
- Actively participate in the implementation of finalized plans of action
- Embrace opportunities for personal faith development and for gaining skills to assist with effective participation in the PPC's operations
- Represent the PPC when required (for example, in other parish meetings, deanery or diocesan meetings).
- Roles
  - Chairperson
  - Deputy chairperson
  - Secretary
  - Other members can be tasked to be a liaison with other parish groups

### **2. Time commitment**

2-year term. Regular meetings every 6 to 8 weeks