

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AT ST. NICHOLAS**

*We are the Body of Christ at St. Nicholas. Grounded in our diversity, we gather for worship, cherish the traditions of our Catholic faith, witness to the Gospel of Jesus, minister to others, and live as Christians in the world.*

### **Mission**

The St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) supports and animates the parish mission as a consultation group to the parish pastor and pastoral staff.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the PPC is to serve as a sounding-board for the pastor, offering input and advice regarding various issues that relate to the life of St. Nicholas parish. These may be brought to the PPC by the pastor, members of the PPC, or other parishioners. Because the PPC is drawn from a wide cross section of the parish, it provides the pastor a collective wisdom from which he can draw in the exercise of his pastoral leadership of the parish.

### **Structure and Membership**

Those who attend meetings of the PPC are its members and individuals from parish groups or ministries invited by the pastor or the PPC to participate in specific conversations that will benefit from their insights and perspectives. The PPC also makes use of open parish Town Hall meetings to seek parish input and/or feedback when appropriate. The PPC will form subcommittees when needed to promote progress on larger issues. Parishioners who request to be on the PPC agenda for a specific issue will be invited to attend that part of the meeting that relates to their agenda item. Approved minutes of all meetings are kept on file, and published on the parish website.

The Parish Pastoral Council will be drawn from parishioners of St. Nicholas parish community. The number of members may increase or decrease based on what will best express the parish voice at any given point in our history. The norm is a total membership of between ten and fourteen parishioners. PPC members are not appointed to represent particular constituencies, groups, or perspectives within the parish; each member represents the parish as a whole and is selected with that purpose in mind.

### **Responsibilities and Expectations**

The PPC will meet with the pastor in at least nine of the twelve months of the year. The PPC seeks to work toward consensus on issues that require a decision or recommendation, respecting the various perspectives among PPC members.

Parish Pastoral Council members are expected to be present at all regular and special meetings of the PPC and all meetings being hosted by the PPC (e.g., Town Halls). Members of PPC will make it a priority to attend key parish activities and school fundraising events whenever possible. Members are asked (but not required) to contribute to an annual ad in the Parish Directory and to an annual dinner for members of the parish staff.

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### **Terms of Service and Selection of Members**

PPC members serve a two year term and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. Members who have served two consecutive terms may return to the council after an interval of at least five years. Each spring the Pastor invites all parishioners to suggest candidates for the PPC. The pastor, parish staff, and members of the PPC also may submit names of candidates. In consultation with the pastoral staff and PPC, the pastor discerns and selects new PPC members from among the identified candidates. If for any reason a member of the PPC cannot complete a term, the pastor designates a replacement for the remainder of that member's term.

The pastor and the members of the PPC will select a Chairperson from among its members. The Chair serves a two-year term. The Pastor and members of the PPC also designate a vice-chairperson to serve in the absence of the Chair, and a secretary to prepare minutes of all PPC meetings. These officers each also serve a two-year term.

### **Rotation of Members – Staggered Terms**

The PPC will replace one half its members every two years thus providing for continuity and the formation of new PPC members.

In consultation with those members whose terms have expired and the other members of the PPC, the Pastor will determine whether or not eligible members of the PPC will continue on the council and serve a second consecutive term.

### **2010 – 2011 PPC Succession Plan (exception):**

Due to the current two member vacancy, the 2010-2011 Succession Plan will engage the following process:

- **Four** current PPC members will leave the PPC in June, 2011. The Pastor will decide which four members after consultation with the PPC. The Pastor will send an invitation to the parish asking parishioners to identify at least six candidates for the PPC. The new members will be discerned and selected by the pastor in consultation with the pastoral staff and PPC no later than June 15, 2011. The new members will complete their first term in June 2013.
- The **six** continuing PPC members will serve until June, 2012. During the spring of 2012, the Pastor will again send out an invitation to the parish asking parishioners to identify an additional six candidates for the PPC. The new members will be discerned and selected by the pastor in consultation with the pastoral staff and PPC. This new group will complete their first term in June 2014.