

MISSION STATEMENT

We are the people of God in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Columbus. Through Baptism, we are called together as members of the community of faith established by Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We proclaim and witness Christ's good news. United with the Holy Father and our Bishop, we live the mission of Jesus through faithfulness to His gospel as understood and taught by the Roman Catholic Church.

With the help of the Lord Jesus, we commit ourselves to work toward a fuller realization of God's reign on earth, by celebrating Christ's presence in worship and sacrament, by teaching and serving, by building up community and by fostering justice through prayer and action.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL GUIDELINES

- I. The Diocesan Pastoral Council will support the mission statement of the Diocese by serving as a consultative body to the Bishop of Columbus. Through prayer and discussion the council will address matters of concern to the Diocese. The council shall also serve as an instrument of communication between the Bishop and the faithful of the Diocese.
- II. Members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council consist of the Bishop, lay representatives (one from each deanery), and any representatives from diocesan-wide organizations that the Bishop may appoint.
 - A. It is suggested that the deanery representatives be selected by their Deanery Councils. It is also suggested that representation from the deanery be selected on a rotating basis of the member parishes.
 - B. Members are asked to serve for two year terms. It is suggested that members not serve for more than six consecutive years. If unable to complete the two year term the vacancy will be filled in the same manner in which the member was originally selected. The year begins September 1 and ends August 31.
 - C. It is the responsibility of the members of the council to faithfully represent their respective deaneries or organizations and to inform them of matters relating to the diocese and the council.
- III. The Leadership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council will consist of the Bishop, a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. This group will prepare agendas and provide needed information and resources for council meetings in a timely manner.
 - A. The Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus presides at meetings and shares with the council information and concerns of the Diocese.
 - B. The Chairperson facilitates the meetings of the council and the Leadership group.
 - C. The Vice Chairperson will assume the duties of the Chairperson in case of absence or resignation. And will prepare a year end summary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council in order to maintain a historical reference.

- IV. Selection of the Officers will take place at the December meeting. Only lay representatives of the deaneries may serve as Officers. These leaders will be asked to serve for one year. Attendance at a minimum of 8 Diocesan Pastoral Council meetings is required for consideration of office. Selection of the leaders will take place after a discussion by council of the leadership qualities and the responsibilities of serving as officers. Selection of the officers will be accomplished by a majority of the members present.
- V. Meetings of the Diocesan Pastoral Council will take place in October, December, February, April and June. All meetings are open and all deaneries should be made aware of them. Guests may only speak at the meetings if they contact the Chairperson seven days prior to the meeting. If possible Diocesan Pastoral Council meetings alternate with Deanery Council meetings. The Bishop may call a meeting at any time if the need arises.
- A. Prayer is essential to the councils' work. Prayer will help to remind the council of Christ's presence and the obligation to discern the will of God in all the concerns of the Diocese.
 - B. Decisions and actions will take place after prayerful discussions and by a majority of the members present.
 - C. Mindful that the council is a consultative body for the Bishop, the council does not have any administrative authority.
 - D. There are no permanent committees of the council. However, the council may form committees to deal with a current issue. The council may request information and assistance from diocesan agencies as well as deaneries and parishes when needed.
- VI. The Executive Secretary (not a Diocesan Pastoral Council member) is responsible for providing support for all Diocesan Pastoral Council meetings and activities. This position is filled by the Office of Development and Planning. Expenses incurred by the Diocesan Pastoral Council are charged to the Office of Development and Planning.
- VII. Amendments or changes to the guidelines may take place at a meeting by a majority of the members present if the proposed amendment or change has been read at the previous meeting. A review of the guidelines by the council should take place at least every two years (odd years).