

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

“A View From The Pew”

Attached is a form to be completed by the parish pastoral council. This report will be kept on file in the Office of Development and Planning and Pastoral Services. This annual report is made available to prospective new pastors as a resource when there is an opening in a parish for a pastor due to the reasons of retirement, reassignment, illness, death etc.

Most laity is unaware of the process by which pastors are assigned to a parish therefore the following is an explanation of that process:

Each year it is determined which pastors will be retiring or “rotating” out of a parish for assignment elsewhere in the diocese. A list of parishes that will need a pastor starting the following July is sent to all priests. If a priest is interested in serving as pastor in a certain parish he informs the priests’ personnel board of his interest and can obtain the following parish information: Five-year financial report, “ Status Animarum” (an annual report), Parish Profile (overview), Demographics, October Mass Count, and the most recent report containing statistics regarding parishioners, sacraments and ministries. A pastor upon leaving a parish will sometimes submit a narrative about the parish for planning purposes and for an effective transition.

The Priest’s Personnel Board meets and reviews the applicants and makes recommendations to the Bishop. The final decision is made by the Bishop. Subsequent rounds of assignments may occur due to the fact that one assignment may open up a need for a pastor in another parish. Most assignments are completed at this time so in July the assignments can take place. The same process occurs at other times during the year when a pastor is unable to continue due to illness, death or other reasons.

“The View from the Pew” was developed in the fall of 2005 by an ad hoc committee of laity and clergy as a means for parishioners to be able to participate in this aspect of the life of the church. A parish pastoral council was concerned because they knew that it was the last year for their pastor to serve in their two parishes and he would be leaving in July of the following year. This priest had been assigned to serve both of these parishes when previously each parish had its own pastor. During his time of leadership the parishes began to work together collaboratively. Many activities and ministries were combined to enhance their effectiveness but the parishes remained separate. The pastor, the staff and the parishioners worked hard during these pastoral changes. Now, one pastoral council represents the two parishes and as one council they wanted to express how hard they had worked and wanted a voice at this time of change in their parishes to ask for a priest who would be willing to continue their collaborative effort.

It is not mandatory that the form be completed. However, it is hoped that you will see this as an opportunity for the parish pastoral council, participating in the life of the church as a consultative body and representatives of parishioners, to express its wisdom, its insights about the parish to others outside the parish and thus contributing to a process within the life of the church. Also, it can be used as a tool for reflection, evaluation, assessment and planning within the parish. The form is provided annually to the parish pastoral council to complete and will be kept on file at the diocese as a resource.

Please remember it is important that your answers reflect input from all of the council members and not just one person. Try to convey the spirit and uniqueness of the parish. The other reports available to the priests will convey data.

Complete the form and return it to: Ellen Weilbacher
Office of Development and Planning and Pastoral Services
197 E. Gay St. Columbus OH 43215. FAX (614) 241-2567

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NOTE: The form is not redundant to the Status Animarum. The Status Animarum primarily gathers and presents statistical information and is completed by the pastor or parish staff. The parish pastoral council report (View from the pew) consists primarily of essay questions and is to be completed by the parishioners who serve on the parish pastoral council.

Originally it was intended that this form be completed only when an opening in a parish was known, but later it was suggested that it be done annually so that it was available whenever there was an opening. An opening can occur during the second or third rounds of assignments and during the year due to death, illness or other reasons.

Participation of the laity in the life of the church and providing insight to prospective pastors are the goals of this form.

This form is not mandatory. It is hoped however that parishes will use this opportunity to voice themselves during the placement process of our pastors.

Please direct questions and comments to:

Ellen Weilbacher, Executive Secretary

The Diocesan Pastoral Council

1-614-241-2550

1-877-241-2550 (toll free)

eweilbacher@colsdio.org

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