

The Role of the Pastoral Council

Of St. Peter Parish

September 2010

The Parish Pastoral Council of St. Peter is a consultative* body charged with assisting and advising the Pastor to foster full participation of the entire parish in the pastoral life and mission of the Parish and the Universal Church.

The Parish Pastoral Council is to be representative of the entire parish. The Council's membership consists of the Pastor, Parochial Vicar (if one is appointed to the parish), and appointed/elected members of the Parish.

The parish Pastoral Council:

- Advises and assists the Pastor in areas of pastoral concerns
- Possesses only a consultative vote, and is governed by norms determined by the Bishop
- Develops, reviews and periodically reevaluates and updates the Parish Mission Statement
- Meets once a month, with the exception of the months of July and August
- Cooperates with Parish Committees and Organizations that address areas of parish life, such as Worship, Spirituality, Evangelization, Education, Social and Service or Outreach. This is the rationale for the creation of the Parish Pastoral Council Sub-Committees.

The decisions made by the Parish Pastoral Council and approved by the Pastor cannot be changed or overruled by any parish staff or parish organization. Only the Pastor can change or overrule the Parish Pastoral Council's decisions.

(*consultative: advice-giving, review, counseling)

Note: The PARISH COUNCIL is made up of the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee. These committees meet separately, but come together for a joint meeting when necessary.

*A Pastoral Council:

Investigates

Reflects (with Prayer)

Recommends

*A Pastoral Council is not:

A Sounding Board

A Forum

A Coordinator
(Council plans rather than implements)