

St. Paul of the Cross Parish Pastoral Council Bylaws  
Ratified June 15, 2021

**Article I: Name**

Section A: The name of this body shall be St. Paul of the Cross Parish Pastoral Council. Hereinafter referred to as the Council.

Section B: The Council is established in accord with the Code of Canon Law and Diocesan norms concerning parish pastoral councils with which the articles of these bylaws must be in accord.

**Article II: Purpose**

Section A: The purpose of the Pastoral Council is to provide consultation and serve as advisors to the pastor concerning pastoral activity and initiatives. The Council shall strive to reach consensus concerning those issues which it addresses and the ordinary disposition of the pastor shall be to act in accord with the recommendations of the Council, unless there are overriding reasons which are to be made known to the Council.

Section B: The Council will represent the parish as a voice of the parishioners.

**Article III: Functions**

Section A: The primary goal of the pastoral council is to help parishioners grow in holiness.

Section B: Help the pastor identify pastoral needs in the parish and assist him in finding effective solutions.

Section C: Help the pastor formulate or renew a mission statement for the parish and discern a pastoral plan with goals at least every three years.

Section D: Assist the pastor in accomplishing the goals within the pastoral plan.

**Article IV: Membership**

Section A: The members of the Council are to be Catholics of the parish who are mindful of the common good, compassionate, prudent, faithful in the stewardship of time, talent and resources and regular participants in the worship of the parish.

Section B: The Council shall consist of 9 members.

Section C: The members of the Council are selected by means of an election of candidates and by appointment of the pastor:

Section D: The election of new members will be held each year in August. The election will last one weekend with paper ballots. In July announcements will be made seeking nominations for the council.

Section E: The two candidates who receive the most votes will be elected to the council. The pastor will then appoint a third member even if that member was not nominated.

Section F: A member serves a term of three years.

Section G: An elected member cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms. After a year's absence a person is again eligible for nomination. Persons appointed by the pastor are not limited in terms of service.

#### **Article V: Meetings**

Section A: The Pastoral Council shall meet 11 times a year and at other times when called by the pastor. The Council will take July off. A new council begins in August after new members are elected or appointed.

Section B: Meetings of the Council are open to parishioners and staff members unless the pastor has determined otherwise prior to a particular meeting.

Section C: The pastor presides over the Council.

Section D: The members of a new Council shall elect a president to plan the agenda with the pastor, and in general to facilitate the work of the Council.

Section E: The members of a new Council shall elect a secretary to record the minutes for the meetings. The minutes will be emailed out prior to the next meeting.

Section F: Meetings will be the third Tuesday monthly at 7:00PM, with July off. The council may establish a different meeting date and time to accommodate parish needs.

#### **Article VI: Attendance**

Section A: Attendance is expected.

Section B: Council members missing two consecutive meetings or three meetings in a year shall forfeit their place on the Council unless the pastor has been informed of intended absences.

Inasmuch as the recurring meetings are at the same time of the month, schedules should be able to be adjusted.

#### **Article VII: Ratification**

Section A: These bylaws become valid upon approval by a majority of the Council and acceptance by the pastor.

Section B: Amendments to this constitution are subject to the same process of ratification.

Section C: By-laws or those more detailed procedures by which the Council carries out its responsibilities must be approved by a majority of the Council and accepted by the pastor.

#### **Article VIII: Suspension and Dissolution of the Council**

Section A: Unless directed otherwise by the Bishop, the Pastoral Council ceases to function when the parish is without a pastor. A new pastor or administrator will call the Council into session within 1 month after appointment to office.

Section B: The Pastoral Council can be dissolved only with permission of the Diocesan Bishop.