

Pastoral Council Self-Nominations Invited

Do you have a passion to make Our Lady of Grace a better parish? Are you intrigued by making complex organizations work better? Do you have a talent for envisioning a better future, plus a way to get there? If so, God has given you gifts that could serve others through our Pastoral Council!

What is the Council?

The Council is composed of nine members who meet with Fr. Vin monthly. (They are joined by the ministry staff occasionally.) The Council exists to assist the pastor in fulfilling the Gospel mission of the parish, in accord with the parish's vision and values.

What sorts of things does the Council do?

This past year the Council has, with the ministry staff, developed the themes and draft priority statements from last year's parish survey and small-group meetings. In the next few years it will help to decide how parishioner resources of time, energy, and money are directed as we choose what we can do and cannot do as a parish.

Who can become a member?

Members must be Roman Catholic, fully initiated, in good standing, and members of the parish. Members are selected on the basis of their wisdom, ability to work constructively with others, and credibility to the parish at large.

What are the responsibilities of a member?

Members must be willing to learn about the parish and its mission; to work effectively with others; to be engaged in the work of the Council at the monthly meetings; and to contribute their wisdom for the well-being of the parish as a whole. Members serve for three years, renewable once.

How are members chosen?

Any eligible parishioner can nominate him- or herself. The Council and staff review all self-nominations, and each individual in those groups makes a confidential recommendation to Fr. Vin about each nominee. Then, in accord with diocesan law, Fr. Vin appoints the members according to the recommendations he has received.

How do people make an interest in becoming a member known?

If you are interested, you should send a completed *Statement of Interest* (available just below) and a one- or two-page letter describing your experience, vision for the future of our parish, and potential contribution to the Council to Fr. Vin no later than 5pm on April 30. More information about membership is on the *Statement of Interest*.

Statement of Interest in Our Lady of Grace Pastoral Council

Dear fellow-parishioners of Our Lady of Grace, and Fr. Vin:

I would like to express my interest in discerning whether I should become a member of our Pastoral Council. I understand that I may come to serve based on my own and others' discernment of what is best for our parish. I also understand that only nine parishioners will serve.

By returning this I affirm that:

- I am a fully-initiated Roman Catholic (have received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion) in good standing;
- I am registered as a parishioner, and worship on Sundays, at Our Lady of Grace;
- I seek to live my Christian commitment each day by observing the two Great Commandments of love of God and neighbor;
- I support wholeheartedly the mission of our parish;
- I understand that the Council has an advisory role to the pastor, and that parish activities are ultimately under the direction of the diocesan bishop;
- I have no potential conflicts of interest that may arise from a family or vendor relationship to the parish or any of its employees; and

I further affirm that, should I be selected,

- I shall make the Council my primary (not necessarily sole) focus in stewardship of time and talent in the parish;
- I shall seek what is best for the parish as a whole, rather than that of any subgroup, interest, ministry, or activity;
- I shall fulfill to the best of my ability my responsibilities to monthly meetings and to any other necessary tasks; and
- I am committed to learning how to collaborate effectively with other Council members, with ministry staff, and with all parishioners, including by learning to use my strengths more effectively.

I agree that my interest may be made public to parishioners, and ask the prayer of the parish as we seek to choose a Council to continue the parish's mission.

Name (Please print)

Telephone number

Street Address

Town, State, Zip

E-mail

Parish Envelope Number

Signature

Date

Please return this with a Letter of Interest describing your relevant experience, your vision for the parish's future, and the contribution you hope to make to the Council should you be appointed. Letters should be no more than two pages.

Return all materials to the parish office no later than 5pm on Wednesday April 30 2008.