



ONE BODY, ONE MISSION

Parish Pastoral Councils and *The Church Alive!*

How do Parish Pastoral Councils work with their pastors?

Parish pastoral councils are central to Bishop Zubik's vision of *The Church Alive!* Based on years of research, consultation and pastoral practice, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has established guidelines for parish pastoral councils. Our parish is committed to implementing those guidelines to advance the mission of Christ and His Church.

Pastoral planning is the core responsibility of parish pastoral councils. This activity moves the parish forward into God's design for our future as we become *The Church Alive!*

This week, we will discuss the relationship between the pastor and the parish pastoral council.

Parish Pastoral Councils ...

Affirm the importance of Holy Orders in the life of the Church

Those who share in the ministerial priesthood through the gift of the sacrament of Holy Orders are specifically directed toward leading the Body of Christ. The pastor is ordained and appointed by the bishop to preside over the Church community. Teachers and guardians of the faith, they unite everyone toward continuing the mission of Christ in our day and age.

Work with the Pastor

As a priest presides at Eucharist, he is surrounded by competent liturgical ministers who express the diversity of gifts God has given for building up the Body of Christ. As he attends to the pastoral needs of his flock, he is assisted by qualified laity as visitors to the homebound or organizers of social outreach efforts. His teaching and preaching are enhanced by the efforts of catechists, evangelization and RCIA teams, and lay-led Scripture study groups. Complex administrative responsibilities are handled by professional lay business managers. Likewise, the pastor works with a lay parish pastoral council to assist him in moving the parish into the future.

Help pastors understand the parish better

While the pastor is responsible for the life of the parish, he shares this blessed burden with all the baptized. Familiar with the particular circumstances of their community, parish pastoral councils can advise the pastor about a parish's history and values, achievements and failures, and dilemmas and demographics.

Keep the mission of Jesus before the parish, *The Church Alive!*

In their vocation as married or single persons, the laity bring gifts and talents to build up the Church. The Church has provided pastors with parish pastoral councils to work with them in discerning the pastoral needs of the parish and keeping before the faithful their baptismal commitment to make the mission of Christ the mission of the parish.

More information on parish pastoral councils can be found on the diocesan website at www.diopitt.org.