

Individuals being considered for participation in the Parish Pastoral Council should demonstrate the following attributes:

- **Prayerful:** Prayer is critical to the work of the parish council and a portion of each parish council meeting should be set aside for prayer and formation. Communal prayer and faith sharing are the best way to foster a spiritual environment for the council and focus on bringing the mission of Jesus into the life of the parish.
- **Pastoral:** PPCs strive to find the best resources and methods to serve the people of the parish as they fulfill the mission of the church in this parish and particular time and place. Meet with parish staff, catechists, heads of ministries, and other advisory groups to understand the scope of ministry, what each ministry does, their present goals, plans for the future and resources they might need.
- **Representative:** Listen to parishioners and then faithfully present those expressed concerns, ideas and questions to the PPC, thus representing the tenor of the community. Strive to understand all aspects of the parish so that the faith needs of parishioners are met.
- **Discerning:** Decision making happens in an atmosphere of prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit. Determine how the mission of Jesus and the Church is accomplished in the parish community and how it models its actions to the parish, local community, and world in response to the mission.
- **Prophetic:** Have the courage and foresight to set the direction of the parish community, challenging the parish to grow in response to the Gospel. Being prophetic is about envisioning the parish community which God desires for us.



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- **Empowering:** Solicit the contribution of the expertise and talents of the parish members. This means learning more about people in the parish as well as calling and affirming them in living out the mission of the church in their daily lives, individually, in their families, and as a faith community.
- **Collaborative:** The PPC challenges itself as well as individual members, the staff, committees, organizations and other groups in the parish to work together. A clear, common understanding of the parish's mission fosters collaboration.

New members need to understand their roles and take time to study and discuss what each characteristic means. Conduct new member orientation to assure that the work of the council is clear and that all understand purpose, goals, and work in progress.

The pastoral council is a representative body, not a body of representatives. It reflects the wisdom of the people of God, not constituencies within the parish. They should be chosen because they have the gifts necessary for the pastoral council. At the same time, the pastoral council should include a variety of parishioners because it is a sign of the people of God. Due regard for the diverse communities, social conditions and professions of parishioners, and for the role which they have in the parish, should be shown in choosing council members.



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