

Blessed Sacrament Parish Council Bylaws

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Parish Council is to serve as a consultative and collaborative body to assist the pastor in continuing the mission of Christ in the parish and community. Aided by the abundance and diversity of the gifts of the laity, the pastor can more clearly and aptly come to decisions regarding both spiritual and temporal matters (Synod Article 9.1.2; cf. *Constitution on the Church*). The pastor's responsibility for all final decisions is seen as a role of service to the parish. The Parish Council is to be his main consultative body, though it shall not be understood as a substitute for the civil corporation of the parish.

MEMBERSHIP

In the election and appointment of such a consultative body, there should be a broad representation of the parish. This body should include men and women, as well as members from different age groups. Those who are practicing Catholics, at least 18 years old, and registered in Blessed Sacrament Parish are eligible to be elected members. The size of the Council shall be 15 members (9 ex-officio and 6 at-large) and may be adjusted according to the needs of the parish at the pastor's discretion.

Ex-officio members of the Council:

- Pastor
- Parochial Vicar
- Parish Trustees (2)
- Building & Grounds Committee Representative
- Finance Council Representative
- Parish Council of Catholic Women President
- Knights of Columbus Grand Knight
- School Principal

Leaders of other parish associations may also be added as ex-officio members with the approval of the pastor. The school principal and CCD Coordinator will attend as needed.

The Parish Council as a consultative body ceases to exist with the death, resignation, or removal of the pastor. It is the right and duty of the incoming pastor to ratify an existing Council or to form a new consultative body.

ELECTIONS

At-large members shall be nominated and elected by the members of the parish. Elections for two of the six positions will take place each year on a rotating basis so that each member shall

serve a term of three years. Members may be re-elected once. After having served for two consecutive terms they are eligible to serve on the Council again after sitting out for one term. Nominations for the upcoming two Council members shall be taken in October with elections taking place in November.

MEETINGS

Regular Meetings shall be held six times a year on the third Wednesday evening of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Additional meetings and subcommittee work will be convened as needed.

OFFICERS

The Council shall be presided over by the pastor and shall also have a moderator and a secretary. The moderator and secretary shall be elected by the Council with the approval of the pastor and serve for two years and no more than two consecutive terms.

DUTIES OF MODERATOR AND SECRETARY

The Moderator shall work with the pastor to set the agenda, conduct the meetings, and assist as a liaison between the Council members and the pastor. The Secretary keeps the minutes of all meetings and other necessary documentation. The minutes are to be published in the parish bulletin.