

Saint Isidore Catholic Church
Parish Pastoral Council Launch Project
October 15, 2016
Saint Teresa of Avila

Code of Canon Law, 536 #1. "In every parish of the diocese, a Pastoral Council shall be established . . . The Pastoral Council is composed of members of the congregation together with those of the parish staff who have pastoral care by reason of their office. The Pastoral Council assists in promoting pastoral action in the parish."

Purpose — The Parish Pastoral Council assists in:

- Pastoral Planning — Forging the Vision
- Developing Pastoral Programs
- Improving Pastoral Services
- Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs and Services

Members — Candidates should be:

- of proven faith
- with sound morals
- demonstrating the gifts of wisdom and prudence — able to think of the good of the whole
- willing to commit their time, talent, and wisdom in a consultative and collaborative manner

Constitutive Elements — Participation entails:

- A Three Year Commitment
- Recognizing the Pastoral Council is a representative body rather than a body of representatives
- Composed of 12 members with additional *ex officio* staff
- Sponsorship by the Pastor for the support of the Pastor
- Drafting of bylaws and maintenance of group functioning

Obstacles — Hindrances to success include:

- A lack of clear outcomes or purpose
- Meeting for the sake of meeting — the potential to spin wheels and devolve into entropy
- Creating yet another drag that thwarts rather than promotes authentic breakthrough
- To join the council is to put parish potential before personal needs

<http://www.diocese-sacramento.org/PDFs/pastoral-council-guidelines.pdf>

"All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all."

Acts 4:32-33