



Pastoral Council Guidelines at POLISH APOSTOLATE

Guidelines based on Archdiocese of Atlanta policy

Purpose:

- To assist our Chaplain in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating, and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education/formation, and service activities of the parish as they relate to the Polish Apostolate mission: To lead all to Christ by living the Sacraments, teaching the Faith & serving others.

Objectives:

- Become more aware of the projects of the Apostolate and the initiatives of the Chaplain.
- Listen and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs, and concerns of Polish parishioners.
- Generate responses to these identified issues.
- Encourage and support the continuing good work of existing groups within our parish.
- Provide opportunities for parishioners:
 - To grow in their relationship with God and with each other.
 - To support and encourage them in their continuing efforts to be a Christian influence in the wider community.
- Assist in the development of realistic and achievable short-term and long-term pastoral goals for our Polish community.
- Oversee the implementation of these goals.
- Advise our Chaplain on Apostolate decisions in a manner that is reflective of the values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.
- Provide support for our Chaplain, working collaboratively with him and with each other.

Membership Criteria:

- Baptized, practicing Catholic.
- Registered member of the parish
- Financial supporting the Polish Apostolate.
- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Membership Composition:

- Standing representation, chosen by each group after prayer and discernment (two-year term) from:
 - Religious Education
 - Lectors
 - Meeting with the Saints
 - Rosary Rose
 - Two Hearts Prayer Group
 - Family Prayer Group
 - “Maranatha” Oasis Group
- Three At- Large Members chosen by the Chaplain (three-year term).
- Ex-Officio members:
 - Finance Committee Chair or designated representative
- Anyone who serves two terms consecutively will then stand down for at least one term, unless specifically requested to remain by the Chaplain.

Vacancies:

- Standing Member – the respective Ministry/Organization would select a new representative to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current term after prayer and discernment.
- At-Large Member – the pastor would select a new representative to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current term.

Officer Bearer Roles and Responsibilities:

- Roles
 - Chair – selected by the Chaplain.
 - Responsibilities Include:
 - Reflect on the effectiveness of each previous Council meeting.
 - Organize the agenda for each meeting, incorporating input from all pastoral council members.
 - Arrange the distribution of the agenda, minutes, and all relevant material one week in advance of each meeting.
 - Secretary –
 - Responsibilities
 - Record brief minutes of each meeting.
 - Prepare a report for approval by the Chaplain, for distribution/publication to the Parish.
 - Maintains a roster of current members with their contact information and cooperate with the Parish

Responsibilities of Members:

In a spirit of prayerfulness, each member of the Pastoral Council will:

- Attend the regular meeting of the Pastoral Council.
- Provide input to deliberations of the Council.
- Develop a spirit of inquiry and the ability to listen and understand the issues affecting the lives of parishioners.
- Provide prayerful support and encouragement for other members of the Council.
- Actively participate in the implementation of finalized plans of action.
- Represent the Pastoral Council when required.

Meetings:

There will be six meetings held every other month throughout the year.

Task Groups:

Task groups may be set up under the auspices of the Pastoral Council for specific purposes for a definite duration and will report regularly to the Pastoral Council. These groups may include members of the Pastoral Council.

Consensus:

The consensus approach will be used in the process of contributing towards the making of parish decisions, with each member offering input towards the outcome. Majority voting, lobbying, competition, and domination are to be avoided. All discussions are to be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect, openness and goodwill. Each member of the Pastoral Council has the right to express his/her opinion and should be listened with respect for personal dignity and different viewpoints. Personal criticism, negative assumptions and division behavior have no place in Pastoral Council.

Communication with the Parish:

The Pastoral Council will report to the parish community regularly using established means of communication.