

August 25, 2010

My Dear Parishioners,

In recent months our **Parish Pastoral Council** has been on "hiatus", due to changing membership, illnesses and some procrastination by me – your pastor. At this time, I would like to re-activate the council in order to continue pastoral planning for the parish. We are in need of new additional members.

I wish to invite you to consider serving on the Parish Pastoral Council – or suggest someone from the parish who might serve well! The following information is given to help describe the Parish Pastoral Council and the characteristics and expectations of its members.

MISSION: As Christians, our baptism into the Body of Christ calls us to live out the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. The Pastoral Council assists in this by providing pastoral planning for the faith community it serves. Through extensive prayer, listening and learning the council assists the pastor in identifying and assessing the gifts and needs of the faith community; to clarify the parish's mission; and to develop and initiate pastoral plans to serve this mission.

MEMBERSHIP: The membership of a Pastoral Council will include a wide variety of people. They reflect a cross-section of people from the faith community, without being representatives of specific group. Each member always strives for the common good of the people he or she serves - to seek the best interest of the entire parish community of faith.

Everyone is uniquely called and gifted by God. While no one person has all the gifts, all the gifts necessary for ministry and service exists within the faith community. The gift of *faith* remains at the heart of all Christian leadership. A council member should be actively seeking to deepen his or her personal relationship with Jesus Christ shared in Christian community.

Membership of the Pastoral Council will be selected on the basis of a mutual discernment of gifts that are necessary for Pastoral Council members to possess. The pastor and Parish Pastoral Council facilitate the discernment and selection of potential new members. Members will not be elected in the traditional manner.

After a group information and discernment meeting with the pastor, the new members of the council will be selected and announced. Members will begin their formation with a retreat later in the fall. At that time further planning for meetings and formation efforts will be determined.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

1. The recommended length of membership is three (3) years.
2. The Pastoral Council will meet four to six (4-6) times a year to do faith formation and parish planning.
3. Meetings may be held on a mutually decided day and time. They may last 3-4 hours.
4. Prayerful reading, study and reflection will be expected in-between meetings.

SELECTION PROCESS: The selection process for new membership on the St. Patrick's Parish Pastoral Council is now beginning. If you believe that you may be called to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council, please contact me or the parish office by Monday, September 13, 2011. Also, if you know someone who is gifted for this undertaking, please submit their name or invite them to do so.

Thank you for your consideration as we move forward this model of parish leadership.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. David P. Fleming
Pastor
St. Patrick's Parish