

**TYPICAL DUTIES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS
AT MIDTOWN CATHOLIC
OMAHA, NE**

Overview:

The following information is intended to give direction and clarity to those applying to be members of the Parish Council. The Parish Council members are to provide consultation to the Pastor on matters of pastoral planning and policy. The Council works with the Pastor to discern God's will, to develop a parish vision, and to clarify the mission of the parish. They engage in pastoral planning by developing parish goals through dialogue with the various parish ministries (including standing committees, clubs and organizations). The Council pursues its mission in connection to the larger church, aware of its interdependence with other parishes, the diocese, and the universal church.

Briefly, what is the purpose of the Pastoral Council?

- Provide consultation to the pastor in promoting the mission of the parish.
- Give special attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit in all our deliberations and actions through prayer and continuing education.
- Establish goals and implementation plans (short term and long range) that are in accord with the Archdiocese and the prioritized needs of the parish.
- Take responsibility for the ongoing renewal of parish life and call forth the gifts of individuals and groups in the faith community.
- Listen to the views of the people of the parish and ensure mutual communication between the Council and the parishioners.
- Cooperate with other parishes and the archdiocese in the broader mission of the church.

What are the functions of the Parish Council and individual Council members?

- To prayerfully consider how God is calling the parish to fulfill its mission in this particular time and place.
- To serve as a vehicle of dialogue, communication, coordination, and cooperation with all the parish committees.
- To use the process of consensus in coming to agreement on recommended courses of action.
- To empower the implementation of parish goals and objectives with the various parish ministries and commissions.
- To annually develop and evaluate progress toward agreed parish goals and objectives and update the plan.
- To communicate to the parish at large the decisions and thinking of the Council.
- To attend to the prayer and continuing education necessary for Council action and the spiritual development of members.

What is the relationship of the Parish Council to individual Standing Committees?

The Council empowers and communicates with the standing committees and parish groups that represent the pastoral priorities, e.g. the essential elements: EVANGELIZATION, WORSHIP, WORD, COMMUNITY, SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP, and LEADERSHIP. These committees work to implement the pastoral plan, and the goals and objectives of that plan.