



St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Council **GUIDELINES**

Role of The Council

The parish pastoral council is a consultative body and a source of wisdom and guidance for our pastor; one that advises on matters affecting the entire parish in its mission of furthering the kingdom of God. The members of the pastoral council work together with the pastor to do what is best for the parish in light of the gospel and the Church's teachings.

Membership and Elections

- A. The pastoral council shall consist of nine members.
- B. Each member of the pastoral council will serve for a period of three years.
- C. Terms of office shall be staggered in order that every year three positions open up. In order to achieve this sequence, the first council will serve the following terms: (3 members-1 year), (3 members-2 years), and (3 members-3 years).
- D. Inclusive of the three annual membership assignments, two will be selected by parishioners and one will be appointed by the pastor.
- E. Members unable to complete their terms, will be replaced by pastor appointment. The newly appointed member will finish the term of the vacated position.
- F. The council will elect a Chair, Co-chair, and Secretary at the first meeting of the new council.

Meetings and Officer Duties

- A. The council will meet quarterly (4 times per year) or as necessary when requested by the pastor.
- B. The Chair will preside at all regular and special meetings under the direction of the pastor. He/she will develop the agenda and coordinate the activities of the pastoral council in collaboration with the pastor.
- C. The Co Chair will preside at the meetings in the absence of the President.
- D. The Secretary will maintain written records of all meetings and acts of the council.

Pastoral Council Recommendations

- A. All meetings should begin and end with prayer and reflection; in a spirit of shared responsibility, different council members will be encouraged to lead in prayer.
- B. Council members shall be alert, informed on parish activities, and keep open communications with the parish at large.
- C. Members are encouraged to read and study and reflect on the following diocesan publication:
Communion & Consultation: Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles