St. Teresa Parish Council Bylaws

Purpose of Parish Council

The Parish Council is a consultative and collaborative body established to assist the pastor in continuing the mission of Christ in the parish and community. Aided by the abundance of diversity and gifts of the laity, the pastor can more clearly and aptly come to decisions regarding both spiritual and temporal matters. The Parish Council is an advisory body. The pastor is responsible for any decision in all matters that affect the parish. (Diocesan Synod Article 9.1)

Membership

In the election and appointment of the Council, there should be a broad representation of the parish. This body should include men and women, as well as members from different age groups. Practicing Catholics, at least 18 years old, and registered at St. Teresa Parish are eligible to be members. The Council will consist of *ex-officio* members from parish organizations and elected members.

Ex-officio members of the Parish Council:

Pastor
Parochial Vicar
PCCW Representative
SFA Representative
Men's Club Representative
Finance Council Representative
Master Plan/Building and Grounds Committee Representative
School Principal

Other *ex-officio* members of the Council may be added at the discretion of the pastor. The School Principal will attend as needed.

The Parish Council ceases to exist with the death, resignation, or removal of a pastor. It is the right and duty of an incoming pastor to ratify an existing Council or to form a new consultative body. (Diocesan Synod Article 9.1)

Elections

At-large members will be elected by the members of the parish. Elections will take place each year on a rotating basis. Two members will be elected in “even” years, and one member will be elected in “odd” years. Terms of office are two years for at-large members. At-large Members may serve three consecutive terms (six years in total). Practicing Catholics, at least 18 years old, and registered at St. Teresa Parish are eligible to vote in at-large parish council elections.

Secretary

The Council will elect a secretary with the approval of the pastor. The secretary keeps the minutes of all meetings and other necessary documentation.

Parish Council meetings are held on Saturday mornings, 4-5 times per year. Subcommittees may be formed as needed.