

Catholic Parish Pastoral Councils

(the following excerpts are taken from *Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, Diocese of Winona Handbook*, August 1991)

- A) . . . The parish exists to carry forward the work of the Church which is the mission of Jesus. The parish has two basic purposes:
- to support the spiritual growth of its members through proclaiming the Word, building up the community, celebrating the liturgy, and serving all God's people;
 - to enable the members to participate actively in the priestly, prophetic, and royal mission of Jesus to the world.

All Christians are called through Baptism and Confirmation to share responsibility for this mission and contribute according to their time, talent, and treasure. But not everyone is called to fulfill this responsibility in the same manner or with the same role.

- B) . . . The Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council are consultative bodies which unite laity and clergy in the community of prayer, leadership, service and pastoral planning. All councilors work together as they seek to listen to the Holy Spirit in discerning what is best for the parish in the light of the Gospel, the Church's teaching, and the experiences and needs of parishioners and the surrounding community. The Councils can fulfill their roles by encouraging a climate in which people can feel free to speak the truth with openness and love.

- C) . . . The Parish Pastoral Council's recommendations deal with pastoral plans and policies and not with acts of administration. This is an important distinction. A pastoral policy or plan:

- sets a basic direction and selects the best strategies to promote this direction;
- provides a guide for future actions, particularly in areas that have a broad impact on parish life; and
- provides clear direction while allowing room for creative, flexible action by those who will implement the policies.

Our Parish Mission Statement

We are God's partially faithful, yet wonderfully gifted people.

Together we are called to heal, educate, and connect all our brothers and sisters to our loving, forgiving God.

We believe that this call comes to us in Baptism, and is nourished through the Word, Eucharist and works of mercy and caring.