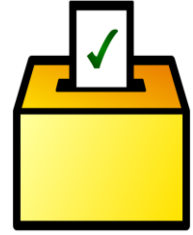


Introducing the New Holy Family-St. Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council!



In 2023, the St. Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council invited two members of Holy Family Parish to join the Council and together begin the work of creating a new, combined Holy Family-St. Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). The PPC recently wrote a new Mission Statement and new bylaws to accomplish this goal; copies are available in recent bulletins. This work was undertaken with a forward-focus on the importance of encouraging continued collaboration between our parishes. Our joint PPC will represent and serve the needs of both parishes as we journey together under shared pastoral leadership.

What is the PPC? Why do we have one?

The PPC serves as a visioning and consultative body to the pastor. The PPC is largely responsible for planning and articulating the course our parishes will follow. The concept for the PPC captures the importance of pastoral collaboration. Parish councils began in the wake of the Second Vatican Council to encourage shared servant leadership of pastor and parishioners. In the Diocese of Scranton, every parish has been mandated to have a PPC since 2004. Bishop Bambera has also directed the structure of the PPC to emphasize the four Commissions. The PPC works closely with the four Commissions and others to assist the parishes in accomplishing the goals for Word, Worship, Service, and Community. Our combined PPC will ensure fruitful dialogue between both our parishes and across all our ministries.

What are the four Commissions? Why do we have them?

The four Commissions are Word, Worship, Service, and Community. As the word “commission” implies, they reflect our call to bolster God’s Kingdom. Bishop Bambera articulated his vision of the Commissions in 2011 according to a framework of servant leadership in four different areas. Each Commission assumes the role of implementing the parishes’ missions and PPC plans within its respective context (e.g., Word Commission sponsoring Bible Study, Worship Commission hosting a church tour, Service Commission working with food donations, and Community Commission promoting parishes-wide events). The Commissions don’t replace parish activities but provide support to all ministries.

What is PPC membership?

Besides the pastoral team, the Bylaws provide for 12 PPC members. That includes four at-large members from Holy Family, four at-large members from St. Ignatius, and four members appointed at the discretion of the pastor. Each member serves an initial two-year term and may opt to continue for up to two further terms (6 years total). Members gather to meet 5 times yearly in January, March, May, September, and November (further meetings scheduled as needed). New members begin their term at the September meeting of each odd-numbered year.

Can I get involved?

Yes! We are looking to fill 4 at-large member seats on the PPC, with 3 from Holy Family and 1 from St. Ignatius. Each candidate must be at least 18 and an active parish member. We’re looking for people who are genuinely interested in the future of our parishes and who can work collaboratively in planning and identifying goals to meet our parishes’ needs. More information will be given at upcoming Masses.

For more information on the PPC, please contact Brian Thomas, Chairperson at 570-239-6009.

Thank you and please pray for the success of our work!