

**Diocesan Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Format**  
(Approximate Time: 2 hours)

**Prayer (10 minutes)**

A volunteer will be asked to plan and lead prayer at each meeting.

**Overview (5 – 10 minutes)**

The chairperson will make a brief statement regarding meeting outcomes, explain the process, and propose the minutes of last meeting for approval. This is also a time to address any necessary procedural questions.

**Formation or Pastoral Planning (45 – 60 minutes)**

This time can be used for study on a timely issue (e.g. evangelization, parish and vicariate vitality, planning, or effective consultation). This time can also be used for consideration of a synodal study, diocesan-wide initiative, or planning time for long-range diocesan priorities. Information for this work will be provided in advance by the Bishop's office.

**BREAK (10 minutes)**

**Open Conversation with the Bishop and Consideration of Vicariate Affairs (30 - 40 minutes)**

All reports are to be submitted two weeks in advance to the Bishop's office and distributed prior to a meeting. Time during the meeting is allotted to discussion of particular items of common interest (e.g. cooperative event planning). Due to time constraints, council members will be asked to read the reports prior to the meeting be prepared to clarify or answer any questions regarding the report.

**Bishop Remarks (10-20 minutes)**

The Bishop will have an opportunity at this time to advise the council regarding ongoing issues facing the Diocese. Some of this time may also be useful in vicariate or committee work as it is determined appropriate by the Bishop in consultation with the executive committee.