

**At Large Representative - Position Description**

The pastoral council is a body of laity and clergy of the Diocese with whom the Bishop consults regarding pastoral concerns. At the heart of this service is a confidence in the inspiration, wisdom and creativity that the Holy Spirit grants to God's People. This assurance is granted to those who listen openly to God and actively to one another. It is not the purpose of the pastoral council to coordinate activities. The council carefully investigates, prayerfully considers and consensually recommends action to the Bishop regarding the pastoral concerns facing the Diocese (e.g. strategic plans and particular diocesan initiatives). This council also serves as a liaison between the vicariates, various cultural, ministerial and generational interest groups and the Bishop's Office.

**Qualifications**

- a person of prayer in full communion with the Church
- active in one's parish and the relevant organized activities of their interest group
- confidence in God's presence and leading of the Church
- tolerance of differing views and ability to listen carefully to others
- willingness to participate fully and honestly
- ability to think strategically about the future needs of the Church in Western New York
- prudence and the ability to maintain confidentiality

**Responsibilities**

- attend quarterly meetings of the Diocesan Pastoral Council each year
- regularly attend meetings and activities associated with the group which they represent
- submit a one page report of any significant events to the Bishop's office at least two weeks prior to each meeting of the diocesan pastoral council
- encourage communication and cooperation between the diocese and the group which they represent
- contribute to the success of diocesan initiatives and planning as directed by the Bishop
- give prayerful consideration to proposals to enrich the vitality of the Catholic Church
- propose action in response to the needs expressed by the people of the Diocese

**Accountability**

The Bishop presides over the council and meetings are facilitated by a designated chairperson

**Commitment**

Renewable, three-year term of service. Diocesan Pastoral Council meetings are held quarterly on Saturday mornings.

**Benefits**

- a stake in the future of the Diocesan Church
- relationships with other committed Catholic leaders across Western New York
- satisfaction from assisting the Church realize a vibrant future in this community
- development of various leadership skills
- use of personal gifts for the good of the Church