

# Memorandum



**To:** Parish Pastoral Council Candidates  
**From:** Brian W. Kruse Council Vice-President  
**Date:** January 10, 2019  
**Re:** Membership Selection Process - 2019

We sincerely appreciate your interest in becoming a member of our Parish Pastoral Council. As a current member, I can tell you what a rewarding and faith-filled leadership experience this is. We meet monthly from August - April, and work closely with our Pastor, Associate Pastor, staff and other parish committees.

Our Parish Pastoral Council is composed of nine (9) members, each serving a staggered three-year term with three members' terms expiring each year, as is the case in 2019. With this January notice, applications are being accepted until February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Thereafter, those applications will be reviewed by the Council's Selection Committee, the applicants interviewed, and candidate recommendations provided to the whole Council for approval.

Enclosed you will find some information on the Pastoral Council for you to review as well as the Candidate Profile Application. **Please see the Eligibility Requirements below.**

Please complete and return the enclosed Candidate Profile Application, **along with a digital photo of yourself** to Kathy Wilhelm in the Parish Office via email at [wilhelmk@svdpomaha.org](mailto:wilhelmk@svdpomaha.org) by **Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

If you have any questions about the St. Vincent de Paul Pastoral Council in general, or the enclosed information and application process, please do not hesitate to contact Brian W. Kruse, or Fr. Dan. We would welcome your interest and questions.

Brian W. Kruse  
St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
2017 Pastoral Council Selection Committee Chair  
[bwkruse@hotmail.com](mailto:bwkruse@hotmail.com)

Fr. Dan Kampschneider, Pastor  
St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
[kampd@svdpomaha.org](mailto:kampd@svdpomaha.org)

## **What is the St. Vincent de Paul Pastoral Council?**

The St. Vincent de Paul Pastoral Council is a consultative governing board which relies on collaborative leadership. In cooperation with the leadership of the pastor, the Council provides direction for the parish. Members of the Council and the parish staff fulfill distinct roles in promoting the faith-life of the parish, and all exercise leadership within their respective roles. In this way, many gifts are available to meet the human and faith needs of the parish.

The purpose of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Pastoral Council is to assist the pastor in developing and deepening the parish faith community in order to fulfill the mission of Jesus. As a consultative body, the Council proposes a vision and direction for parish life. The Council is a catalyst for a partnership of adults, a sharing of leadership in the faith community where varied roles and responsibilities act together to fulfill the parish mission.

A consultative board is one which operates in the policy-making process by formulating and adapting initiatives and policy. This type of board is more in keeping with shared decision-making in the Catholic Church because of the consultative status of the diocesan council. The constituting authority establishes those areas where the board is to be consulted. Such action is usually made effective by the board's constitution, which is inserted into the governance structure of the organization in a significant way.

NOTE: Consultation implies that the administrator(s) will listen to the advice of the properly convened body in certain designated matters prior to a decision being made. The operative principle is that the administrator(s) will not act contrary to the advice which has been given, especially when there is consensus, unless the administrator(s) has/have an overriding reason. It is customary for the administrator(s) to communicate this reason to the consultative body.

## **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

### **MEMBERS**

#### **ELIGIBILITY RERQUIREMENTS:**

- Registered membership in St. Vincent de Paul Parish;
- Every baptized and confirmed Catholic being 18 years of age or older shall be eligible for membership on the Council;
- However, any individual employed by, or whose spouse is employed by, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, at the church or the school, shall not be eligible for membership on the Council or allowed to complete a term of membership on the Council.

#### **ROLE**

The role of a Council member is to serve for the benefit of the parish as a whole, rather than as a representative of any constituency. This service requires breadth of view and the discipline to set aside special interests in order to address broader perspectives.

**CRITERIA** In addition to participation in parish life, criteria include but are not limited to:

- general knowledge about the parish
- dedication to the mission and spiritual welfare of the parish
- commitment to work in a group process of prayer, consensus building, planning
- interest in developing the Council as a community of reflection and prayer
- interest in study and continuing education on Church and parish issues
- commitment to working with others for the good of the parish and being open to:
  1. valuing the opinions and wisdom of others
  2. listening and speaking respectfully
  3. doing things differently or doing new things
  4. letting go of personal agendas for the good of the whole
  5. working collaboratively

**TIME:** The Council member needs sufficient time and energy to participate in meetings and to follow through on responsibilities. Members make a commitment to be ready for the following:

- participation in an orientation session
- attending regular Council meetings
- serving as a contact liaison between the Council and a committee
- participation in a planning day with all committees of the parish
- participation in archdiocesan-wide or deanery gatherings, workshops as needed

## **TO WHAT ARE POTENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPECTED TO COMMIT?**

- Maintain integrity and confidentiality.
- Act in the best interest of the entire parish community.
- Support the parish philosophy and mission.
- Demonstrate a sense of future vision for the parish community.
- Display a willingness to balance a prudent concern for fiscal stability with a spirit of creative risk taking.
- Display effectiveness in achieving consensus in and support of council decisions.
- Make and support difficult decisions.
- A three-year term with monthly meeting attendance from August through April and participation in council in-services.

**St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
Pastoral Council  
Candidate Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of children (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Registered Membership in St. Vincent de Paul Parish (SVdP): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please provide a descriptive summary of you and your activity at SVdP:

In a paragraph or two, please provide a summary of the gifts and talents you will bring to the Pastoral Council, and why you wish to serve the parish in this way.

*Please also submit a digital picture of yourself to: [wilhelmk@svdpomaha.org](mailto:wilhelmk@svdpomaha.org)*