

# Commission

## General Guidelines

While the parish pastoral council is the thinking, planning, and reflection group for the parish, the commissions are made up of the people that actually help to make the plan a reality.

The commissions are made up of individuals of the parishes commissioned by the pastor to carry out a particular ministry in the parish. They are spiritually called to this ministry. It falls to the pastor, pastoral council, and the commissions to imitate the Apostles, prayerfully discerning those persons in the parish that may have a calling to a particular ministry. This same discernment should occur every time there is a need to fill positions in the parish faith community, including the pastoral council.

Existing organizations or committees relate to the pastoral council through the appropriate commissions. Commission members are called and are the principal body responsible for overseeing the proper carrying out of the ministry in accord with the pastoral plan. This calling should be recognized by the pastor, pastoral council and the parish itself. Commission members should be installed in their ministry during Sunday mass.

Each commission is responsible for establishing a working plan including mission statement, goals and objectives, the recommendation to the pastor of policies concerning matters pertaining to the commission, evaluating programs and policies, and approval of their budget.

The commissions are to become knowledgeable about the ministry, taking advantage of local and diocesan resources. For example, the Community Commission should be trained in all pertinent aspects of Social Justice. Commission members should take their obligation to be educated in the subject seriously.

The pastor and pastoral council must also take seriously this obligation that all engaged in ministry must be trained and ensure that opportunities are provided for proper formation. Money must be budgeted annually to insure that the laity are properly trained.

Each commission must prepare, carry out, and evaluate a yearly action plan based on the long range goals set by the parish pastoral council (in conjunction with all the commissions) as part of the parish pastoral plan.

It is responsible to prepare and propose to the parish finance council an annual budget for those supplies, equipment and expenses necessary to carry out that plan.

## Endnotes

1. John: 1: 14
2. Matthew 25: 35-36
3. Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) No. 32c, 33a
4. Canon 518
5. Canon 528 §1
6. Canons 528 §1 and 771 §2
7. Christifideles Laici (The Participation of the Lay Faithful in the Life of the Church as Communion), 26.2
8. Canon 519
9. Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People), No. 10.
10. Canon 519
11. Canons 528 & 529
12. Christus Dominus (Decree Concerning The Pastoral Office of Bishops In the Church) No. 27b
13. Ecclesiae Sanctae, No. 16
14. Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People), No. 26
15. Ecclesiae Sanctae 1a (Apostolic Letter on Implementing the Decrees, Christus Dominus, Presbyterorum Ordinis, Praefectae Caritatis. Norms for Implementing Christus Dominus Paul VI, Ecclesiae sanctae I, No. 16 (1)
16. Canon 536 §1
17. The Commentary on the Code of Canon Law, Coriden, James A. et al; eds. p. 432.
18. Novo millennio ineunte (January 6, 2001), No. 29.
19. Christifideles Laici, Nos. 4-6.
20. Guidelines of the Diocese of Charlotte, Oct. 16, 1987
21. Cf. Canon 536, §1; Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity), 2.
22. Canon 229 §1
23. Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), #7c-d)
24. Gravissimum educationis (Declaration on Christian Education), No. 2
25. Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People), Chap. II, No. 7
26. Christifideles Laici, Nos. 27.6.
27. Gravissimum educationis (Declaration on Christian Education), No. 3
28. Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People,) Chap. I, #3
29. Ad Gentes (Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity), Chap. II, #15
30. Go and Make Disciples, #10
31. Inter mirifica (Decree on the Means of Social Communication), Chap. II, #13
32. Unitatis redintegratio (Decree on Ecumenism), Chap. II, #5
33. Ut Unum Sint (On commitment to Ecumenism) 99
34. Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People, #22)
35. 1997 Instruction on Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priest (Article, 5, § 3).