

CONSULTATION AND GOVERNANCE

All the faithful by virtue of Baptism are equal in dignity. The voices of all are prized. The faithful have the responsibility to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the right to speak for the welfare of the Church. Those who exercise the power of governance, in union with the Office of the Bishop sent by the Successor of Peter, have the responsibility to listen to and communicate with the faithful. Consultation and Governance generate the structures wherein the charisms of all members are valued and the needs of all the faithful are addressed.

Goal 1: Shared Leadership (Pastoral Councils)

Given that through Baptism we, as the Church, are called to share in the mission and ministry of Christ (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church #33);

Given that Christ's faithful are at liberty to make known their needs, especially their spiritual needs, and their wishes to the Pastors of the Church and that they have the right, indeed at times the duty, in keeping with their knowledge, competence and position, to manifest to the sacred Pastors their views on matters which concern the good of the Church (Canon 212 §2, §3);

Given that clergy, religious and laity are to be committed to strengthening the structures of collaboration, participation and shared responsibility in our parishes (Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium-USCCB, p.18);

Each parish within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, to promote collaborative ministry, will have a Parish Pastoral Council that functions as a consultative body to the Pastor. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe will model this effort through the formation, training, support and sustenance of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

OBJECTIVES:

Archbishop:

1. The Archbishop will establish an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council representative of various ministries, deaneries, cultures and states of life by fall 2007.
2. The Archbishop will mandate the establishment of a Parish Pastoral Council for each parish by January 2008.

Archdiocese:

3. The Chancellor, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Pastoral Planning Office, will ensure the development and effectiveness of Parish Pastoral Councils.

4. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Pastoral Planning Office will conduct regional workshops to train members of Parish Pastoral Councils beginning December 2007.
5. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Pastoral Planning Office will identify those parishes without a Parish Pastoral Council and assist Pastors in forming a council.
6. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Pastoral Planning Office will provide Parish Pastoral Council training materials and consulting services for priests and parishioners by December 2007.

Parishes:

7. Under the direction of the Pastors and their designees, each parish of Archdiocese will establish a Parish Pastoral Council by January 2008.
8. Thriving Parish Pastoral Councils already in existence will provide modeling and mentoring to aid newly formed Pastoral councils as needed beginning spring 2007.

Families and Individuals:

9. Parishioners (individuals) will reflect upon their own Christian leadership skills, and through a process of discernment, consider offering those skills in service to their parish.