

Just what *IS* a Pastoral Council???

The Council is a group of parishioners, whose basic job is to help the other parishioners participate more deeply in the mystery of God. They give their help in fostering pastoral activity. They are engaged with the pastor in a common search for wisdom and practical conclusions. The Council's aim is to act as an advisory board to the pastor. Its meetings are open to Parishioners.

The Council is practical rather than theoretical, thus questions of practical wisdom and prudence are the realm of the pastoral council. No other parish group studies, reflects and advises as does a pastoral council. Council members should continually realize that their work is more than a task. It is a calling and God's gift.

The actions of a council are based on the intellectual disciplines and practices of:

1. Study and investigation of a matter.
2. Sufficient reflection on the matter.
3. The formulation of practical conclusions and recommendations.

They represent the parish by "making present" the wisdom of the parish to the pastor. Staff members on the pastoral council are *ex officio*; their role is to serve as resources to the other councilors.

But *who* could serve on OUR Pastoral Council ???

ANY registered Parishioner of any age, who is genuinely interested in contributing his or her talents to make this a better, more vibrant, more closely knit family of believers.

They need to be willing to spend a reasonable amount of time between meetings to keep abreast of Parish activities and prepare themselves to discuss and vote from personal knowledge, NOT from rumor or hearsay.

They need to be open-minded, objective and without a personal agenda. Some kind of "track record" in Parish activities would obviously be desirable.

If you think you *might* be able to make a contribution to St. Francis By-the-Sea in this way, please contact Ben Letizia at:

bletizia@roadrunner.com

OR

Contact any present member of the Pastoral Council.
The search for new members is on, and 10 attractive candidates
Would not be too many!