

Discernment Night For Parish Pastoral Council

Leader: We pray now in the words that Jesus gave us: Our Father...

May almighty God bless us, the Father +
and the Son and the Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord in
one another.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us conclude with a greeting of peace.



Part II

Each person being discerned answers the question:

What gifts do you bring to the ministry of leadership and the Parish Pastoral Council?

Part III

Each person chooses one of the following questions to answer:

What one thing do you think would make the biggest difference in the spiritual life of our parish?

What one thing do you think is the greatest need in the parish?

If you could give all the people of our parish an injection of some spiritual gift, what would it be and why?

Now that all have spoken, this is the time for questions and answers, if there are any.

At this time, people may withdraw their names for consideration, although if you do, you are invited to stay with the group and participate in the discernment.

Each person is asked to identify several individuals whose gifts would contribute to the council. Then discuss briefly the reasons for their choice.

A. Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Holy Spirit and they shall be created

All: And you will renew the face of the Earth.

Opening Prayer

Reading (Romans 12)

Now I urge you: do not conform yourself to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. For by the grace given to me I tell all of you not to think of yourselves more highly than you ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is a leader, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Reflection

(faith sharing open to all attendees)

Of all the advice Paul gives us in this reading, what line or phrase seems most significant to you at this time? Why?

B. Discernment Process

Those who are being considered to fill the role of council member are asked to address several questions, without judgment, interrogation, or interruption by others. Respectful listening and continuing prayer to the Spirit marks this time.

Part I.

Each person introduces himself or herself. Candidates should include the following information:

Name

Length of time as a member of the parish

Ways in which they have been involved in the parish over the years

The church activity, ministry, or service they found most rewarding

After each person speaks, the group affirms and prays for him or her.

Leader: Let us pray in gratitude for the life of _____ and all the gifts s/he has already shared with this faith community. May God continue to lead him/her in discipleship and service of God's people.

All: Amen! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the fellowship of Holy Spirit be with you.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let us pray:

In gratitude for your presence with us,
O Holy Spirit, we bring you thanks and
praise.

Now bless these, your servants, as they
assume the ministry of leadership among
our parishioners. Give them unity, vision,
wisdom, and a great love for you and your
people. We pray this in the name of Jesus,
our model and our shepherd, now and forever
Amen.

Reader: (2 Cor 9:1, 11-15)

Now about your service to God's holy ones; I know your eagerness. You are being enriched in every way for your generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones, but is also overflowing in many acts of gratitude.

Through the evidence of this service, you are glorifying God in your fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the generosity of your contribution to God's people and to all others. In prayer for your good, they hope in you because of the surpassing grace of God. Thanks be to God for such and indescribable gift!

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.