

You've been called. But have you been installed?



The picture above is from St. Kevin's PPC installation (or commissioning) ceremony during a Mass celebration with Msgr. Joseph Finnerty. Did you know that the Pastoral Planning Office has a sample commissioning ceremony for your council that can be used in the context of a liturgy?

If your Pastoral Council has not been publicly commissioned, you may want to consider doing so. There are many benefits to a formal commissioning for both your PPC and the parish community.

- A ceremonial commissioning of the Parish Pastoral Council honors the importance of **ritual** in our lives, and as Catholics, we LOVE ritual! Ritual binds participants in a common purpose, establishing your intention and marking the beginning of a journey. It acts as an effective symbol of the work that will be done together and the mission that you share as a faith community.
- A commissioning ceremony in the context of the Liturgy establishes a visual presence for the council. Standing together at the altar allows parishioners to see who you are, and it provides an additional opportunity to help them better understand your role in the parish.
- A commissioning ceremony establishes and recognizes your authority. In this usage, authority is not intended to suggest power that is lauded over people. Instead, this is an authority of relationality, of your right to discern the needs and values of the community and to request dialogue among parishioners. A council's role as a visionary body will be severely limited without consultation of the people and the building of relationships within the faith community.
- Quite simply, a Parish Pastoral Council deserves to be recognized. A great amount of time, energy and effort will be expended by council members. It is right and just that there be some form of public acknowledgement of the sacrifices you are willing to make for a revitalized faith community. In those parishes that underwent a full discernment process, this recognition also serves to honors the discernment of the community.

If your council was not installed, consider speaking with your pastor. Then, call the PPO for a copy of a sample ceremony.