

Pastoral Council Review (06-07)

It has been an honor to serve as chairperson of our Pastoral Council this past term. It is hard to believe that six years have passed since I was discerned. I am thankful that the discernment program was brought to Assumption. I probably would not have wanted to run for a position in the political sense. In an election, someone wins and someone loses. Many times good people are never given the chance to use their talents simply because of that process. The person that does not make it moves on, possibly disenchanted, and the real losers are the whole parish family. I encourage everyone to give discernment a chance. The rewards are very strengthening to the spirit.

I feel that I am leaving the council in very capable and faith filled hands. As a parish community, we are lucky to have people willing to stand up and lead us into a future that is filled with many new challenges we have not seen before. However, with good leadership, we will not only survive, we will thrive.

I was challenged this year to be able to measure at the end of my term if "Assumption would be a better parish due to the efforts of myself and the Pastoral Council team". I hope it is. The parish as a whole can be the judge. We have faced some major issues this year. One issue is the continuation of our parish school as it operates today. Through the work of many volunteers from Assumption and surrounding parishes, planning has begun to ensure the continued availability of affordable Catholic education in our area. There are many opinions from various parties in all the parishes involved. We cannot be concerned whether one parish wins or loses. We need to be concerned that our children, our future leaders, will get a good education, wherever that ends up physically occurring. In time, all the issues will be resolved, as all parishes will have input so that all needs can be met. We must keep the faith.

Another issue is simply our decreasing number of parishioners. We have lost to eternity several good and key people. We sustained a loss among ourselves on the Pastoral Council this year. Many people did not realize that Harry Boguszewski served with us. I know Harry wore many hats and was as involved as you can get. He will surely be missed. We also lost a member of the Education Commission this past year. Ken Rhodes volunteered to be with this group and passed away before the school year began. These were just two of the many dear people that we lost. These two were discerned and followed through to try to make a difference. God bless all of the people from Assumption that we have lost this past year.

Pastoral Council assisted in launching two programs to increase our faith sharing opportunities this year. Our parish began a program called "Why Catholic" during Advent, 2006. When you have men and women praying together and renewing their faith, I feel that it puts us on the right path with God. Another program that was launched this year is the Youth Mass. We are trying to do this the 3rd Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. So far, the response and cooperation from the school has been encouraging. I am asking the parish to get behind this coming year's council and help make this endeavor a success.

In closing, I have met many people during my time on council. The experience has been rewarding. I want to thank everyone that makes Assumption the best place to worship and be on the path with God.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Krebs