

ASSUMPTION PASTORAL COUNCIL  
ANNUAL EVALUATION  
2004-2005 SESSION

One of the roles of the Chairperson of Pastoral Council is to lead Council in an annual evaluation of its proceedings and effectiveness. The following report discharges this duty. However, the 2004-2005 Council session has laid the groundwork for what can be a pivotal point for the future of Assumption Parish Pastoral Council. As such, this evaluation focuses as much on the future as the past.

When we started the 2004-2005 session last August, we identified our primary areas of focus as a Council as:

- a) continue initiatives we had started in 2003-2004 to improve communications with parishioners and between organizations;
- b) help our parish organizations and ministries focus on taking actions that support the priorities our parishioners identified in our first Town meeting; and
- c) offer ideas and support for increasing lay leadership as our Archdiocese and Parish plan to deal with the issue of a declining numbers of priests.

To address our goals to continue to improve communications with parishioners and between organizations, and to help our organizations and ministries plan with purpose to support the needs of parishioners, we decided early on to focus on working with the leaders of our various organizations and ministries. Our Special Town Meetings with Assumption Organization Leaders produced good ideas and plans for working on the priority focus areas identified in our Town Meeting and introduced the idea of "planning with purpose" to support the needs of parishioners.

Working with the input received from the leaders of various organizations and ministries, Pastoral Council was able to draft a first-ever Assumption Parish Annual Action Plan. Some organizations and ministries initially were not comfortable with the concept of a Parish Action Plan as they felt that Council was trying to impose direction and exert control over activity. However, Council members were able to reinforce the value of planning with purpose and to encourage follow-through on completing planned actions by working closely and personally with organizations in their liaison roles.

The process of working with the organizations leaders on an Annual Action Plan satisfied our goal of continuing to improve communication between Council and the various groups. In addition, it fostered improved communication between groups, as organizations were anxious to share plans and discuss ideas with each other. Continuing to improve communication with and between organizations needs to be an ongoing priority. However, Council spent considerable time working on introducing the planning concept and, as such, did not put adequate focus on continuing to improve communication with parishioners. It is important to continue the Town Meeting concept, particularly as we begin to address the issues of the future. Council needs to pursue scheduling regular Town Meetings with parishioners to ensure the two-way flow of information and input.

However, the time spent introducing the concept of planning with purpose laid the foundation for leading Pastoral Council to a new focus for the future. Pastoral Council needs to assume a leadership role in Pastoral Planning for Assumption as we begin to implement the recommendations made by the Archdiocese's Futures Implementation Team, the Pastoral Region II Planning Committee, and the St. Margaret Mary Deanery Planning Sub-Committee to deal with our declining number of priests and the future of our schools.

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Defining what a leadership role in Pastoral Planning means stands to be the immediate priority for Pastoral Council at this point in time. Council has the opportunity to take the lead on expanding communication with parishioners and organizations to include plans and issues that directly affect the future of our Parish. In addition, Pastoral Council is the organization that needs to refine our Parish planning process to focus on implementation of Archdiocesan recommendations that will serve the needs of parishioners well into the future. To do both of these, Council needs to clearly define its leadership role and diligently carry out that role.

The 2004-2005 Pastoral Council is blessed with energetic, creative members, driven by the Spirit to serve the parishioners of Assumption. Each brought his or her own special gift to our efforts this past session. There were many issues discussed, ideas shared, and actions taken throughout the year, and the minutes of Council's meetings during this session stand as record of those.

However, the 2005-2006 Pastoral Council is equally energetic and creative, with the continuity of seven "veteran" members, the addition of two talented new members, the enthusiasm of an incoming Chairperson dedicated to serving Assumption Parish, the wise counsel of our Deacon, and the dedicated leadership of our Pastor. The 2005-2006 Council is well equipped to redefine the role of Pastoral Council and to play a vital role in the future of our Parish.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served as Chairperson this session and I am grateful for the blessing of receiving my "call to serve." Assumption Parish Pastoral Council's focus needs to be on consistently communicating about the planning process for the future with parishioners and our organizations and ministries to ensure that Father, along with the leaders of the St. Margaret Mary Deanery and the Archdiocese, have the input they need to implement effective recommendations that serve the spiritual needs of our parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Mohr  
Assumption Pastoral Council Chairperson  
2004-2005 Session  
June 21, 2005