Greetings,

Dear Parishioners,

It has been a kind of “roller-coaster” life in the Parish Office last week; answering and managing all possible bookings. Our Parish life has become more and more interesting for me! I once again beg all Parishioners to be, generous, kind, and a little serious about bookings and cancellations. Please don’t blame any staff of mine; including all our volunteers, they are generous people who have shared all our workloads during this unprecedented time. If there are concerns and mistakes come and have a chat with me, we can sort them very easily. I understand your true sentiments towards our Churches and over enthusiasm in participation of Holy Masses, but at the same time you have to be aware of Government and Diocesan protocols, arrangements, COVID-19 plans. We are trying our best to give equal opportunity to people who have not had a chance to participate in any Liturgical celebration.

**In forming Pastoral Administration:**

*The Continuation from Last week edition ……This will completed with next week bulletin*

Can. 536 §1. If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune after he has heard the presbyteral council, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity.

§2. A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop.

Can. 537 In each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop and in which the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to the prescript of can. 532.

Can. 538 §1. A pastor ceases from office by removal or transfer carried out by the diocesan bishop according to the norm of law, by resignation made by the pastor himself for a just cause and accepted by the same bishop for validity, and by lapse of time if he had been appointed for a definite period according to the prescripts of particular law mentioned in can. 522.

§2. A pastor who is a member of a religious institute or is incardinated in a society of apostolic life is removed according to the norm of can. 682, §2.

§3. When a pastor has completed seventy-Five years of age, he is requested to submit his resignation from office to the diocesan bishop who is to decide to accept or defer it after he has considered all the circumstances of the person and place. Attentive to the norms established by the conference of bishops, the diocesan bishop must provide suitable support and housing for a retired pastor.

Can. 539 When a parish becomes vacant or when a pastor is prevented from exercising his pastoral function in the parish by reason of captivity, exile or banishment, incapacity or ill health, or some other cause, the diocesan bishop is to designate as soon as possible a parochial administrator, that is, a priest who takes the place of the pastor according to the norm of can. 540.

Can. 540 §1. A parochial administrator is bound by the same duties and possesses the same rights as a pastor unless the diocesan bishop establishes otherwise.

A Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, working together with Parish Priest and parishioners to provide support for their efforts as followers of Christ.

A Pastoral Council consists of the Pastor together with a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community.

The Pastoral Council’s role is to promote the Church’s mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in our world.

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Why have a pastoral council?

Pastoral Councils are one of the structures which were strongly recommended by the Bishops of the Second Vatican Council.

They witness to the basic equality of dignity of all members, by reason of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, highlighting the role of all to share in the saving mission of Jesus.

Pastoral Councils are part of the Vatican II movement towards shared responsibility and shared ministry.

**Work of pastoral councils**

Pastoral Councils seek to:

• search out and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners

• grow in knowledge and awareness of what is already happening in the parish

• encourage and support the good work of existing groups within the parish

• evaluate carefully information gathered in order to contribute towards the making of decision that reflect the values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church

• set long-term and short-term pastoral goals for the parish

• provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and with each other to develop, implement and improve parish initiatives that assist parishioners in their continuing efforts to live as effective Christians in society

Establishing a Pastoral Council:

The process of establishing a Pastoral Council will vary according to the characteristics and circumstances of each parish community.

A general outline of an effective establishment process would contain the following stages:

• Form a preparation group

• Communicate with parishioners

• Prepare Pastoral Council Guidelines

• Invite recommendation of possible members

• Provide an information meeting for recommended members

• Organise a prayerful selection meeting

• Commission the new Pastoral Council

• Arrange an initial formation and orientation session.

*Fr.Joseph Figurado*