

Celebration of Recognition/Commissioning of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The form proposed here is for the recognition of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) for a defined period. This recognition of the PPC is presided by the pastor or his delegate and would normally take place during Eucharist on Sunday or on another day when as many people as possible can gather. (Parish Ministries, pgs.134-141)

INTRODUCTION (after Introductory Rites):

The Presider may briefly explain the significance of the Celebration of Recognition of PPC which will be taking place after the Homily.

OPENING PRAYER:

PRESIDER: O God, the giver of every perfect gift, by the grace of baptism, you adopt us as Your own and call us to your service.

Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit to live the Gospel we have embraced.

Deliver us from self-seeking and cause us to work for the common good.

Keep us loyal to Christ in all we set out to accomplish that the praise and glory may be Yours alone.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who live and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

RECOGNITION (after the Homily):

PRESIDER: "Let the member of the PPC please come forward."

The names of the PPC member are called out as they come forward and stand before the assembly.

PRESIDER: Dear friends, these members of our parish have accepted to serve as an advisory body to the Pastor, and for the parish of (name). In sharing their gifts and wisdom, they have the pastoral needs of this entire faith community at heart. Let us pray for their perseverance in this important service.

COMMITMENT:

PRESIDER: *addresses and questions the PPC:*

My brothers and sisters, you are called to a most important work in our community. Your duty is to foster the pastoral activity of this parish, to help all of us to grow in faithfulness to the Gospel; to be the disciples of Christ that we are called to be.

Because of our knowledge and competence, you have been chosen to share your insights with one another, with your pastor and the whole pastoral team, for the well-being of the entire parish and the building of the kingdom of God.

Therefore, I ask each of you, are you willing to share your insights honestly, with courage and with mutual respect?

PPC members: I am.

PRESIDER: **Are you committed to work together with openness to the needs of every member of this parish community?**

PPC members: I am.

PRESIDER: **Will you strive to make prayer a part of your daily life, ensuring that in all deliberations you are open to the grace of the Holy Spirit?**

PPC members: I am.

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

PRESIDER: **Let us pray.** All pray silently for a moment. *The Presider then extends his hands and continues:*

Ever-living God, You have chosen us to be your beloved people, and have gathered us to live in this parish of (name), to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all people, and to love and serve you in word, worship, and work.

Bestow your blessings upon these members of our Parish Pastoral Council and let their deliberations be pleasing to you. May your Spirit enlighten their minds, and guide their actions that they may be renewed in faith, united in love, and bring to fulfillment the work of your Church. For your honour and glory and for the benefit of all your people. Blessed are you Lord God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

PRESENTATION OF A SYMBOL OF THEIR WORK:

The members of the PPC may receive copy of the Bible, or the Constitution of the PPC, or some other symbol of their work.

PRESIDER: Take to heart your responsibility for the parish community and strive to grow in faithfulness to the Gospel.

PPC members respond Amen

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (Prayer of the faithful)

The members of the PPC return to their places and the General Intercessions follow. These should include an intention for the PPC and for the Parish community. One of the following may be used or adapted:

That the members of our Parish Pastoral Council may give witness to the presence of Christ by lives manifesting faith, hope and love. We pray to the Lord.

That the Church, the People of God, may grow in Christ and in the bond of common fellowship. We pray to the Lord.

That all who are concerned with the welfare of our parish, may open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, and strive to carry out God's will. We pray to the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: *The celebration of the Eucharist continues and concludes as usual. It is appropriate for some of the members of the PPC to present the gifts of bread and wine for the celebration.*