

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): The “Communication” Pillar

What is the role of communication in the Parish?

Communication has the power to build bridges between both individuals and groups, as well as foster an environment of inclusion in society. (Pope Francis, Jan. 22, 2016)

The Communication Pillar of the PPC is responsible for providing the parishioners with clear, consistent, and regular news/information specifically concerning the PPC. (Upper Room Guidelines pg. 27)

Communication within the parish keeps people informed, supports people and programs, provides publicity, sensitizes people, provides a forum for expression and concern about issues, and builds a sense of community.

Communication is an essential element for the successful implementation of the Mission of the Parish.

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Expecting parishioners to come forward with their commitment, time, and talents is like asking them to volunteer and donate to a cause they know nothing about!

The “Diocesan Committee for the Renewal and Growth Committee” has been journeying with many parishes across our Diocese since 2016, actively assisting parishes in the forming and/or revitalization of Parish Pastoral Councils. (PPC)

**A question consistently heard from existing Councils is:
“How do we get parishioners interested and involved in the PPC?”**

**On the other hand, we have also heard parishioners say:
“What is a PPC?” “I didn’t know we had one in our parish!”**

These comments have led us to the realization that there is an element of *communication* missing between the PPC and the parishioners!

As a result, a “Communication Pillar” has been added to the Organizational Chart of a PPC as an *essential* element to the success of a PPC and ultimately the success of the parish. (Appendix # 6 in Guidelines)

The *goal* is to keep parishioners aware of your PPC; that there are actions being taken on their behalf and also, that their participation is needed to accomplish the Church's and your parish's mission/goals.

Reasons for PPC Communication:

- Parishioners become aware of their PPC, its members, and its purpose
- Parishioners become aware of the Goals and Strategies planned for the parish and work toward a common goal (Action Plan)
- Parishioners understand the work accomplished by the PPC
- Parishioners are informed of decisions made on their behalf
- Parishioners are more willing to join if they know what it's about, its purpose and vision
- Communication builds and strengthens community
- Parishioners are aware that their voice is heard and that they contribute to the decisions being made and actions being taken

How to communicate?

In bulletin:

Contact information for Pillar chairs should be a standard in the weekly bulletin

Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) who have already established a "PPC Communication Pillar" have come up with Eye-catching titles to call attention to this particular section of the bulletin, using headings like:

- DID YOU KNOW?"
- "Our PPC Corner"
- "What's happening here?"
- "Forward with Hope!"
- News! News! News!
- Moving together!
- PPC: Prayer, Participation and Community!
- News for the Pews!

The dates of upcoming PPC meetings should be published in the PPC section of the bulletin.

Each Pillar/Ministry may include news of activities under its care. (Liturgy, Music, Youth, Hospitality, Faith Formation.....)

A summary of the monthly PPC meeting is included so that parishioners are kept informed of the PPC's existence and activities. Full minutes may be on the parish website or copies available for parishioners.

Information from the Upper Room Guidelines document is regularly copied and pasted into the PPC corner of the bulletin. This can be repeated regularly to ensure that all parishioners are aware.

Your PPC Organizational Chart is included as an *insert* in the bulletin several times throughout the year. (see Appendix #6 in your Guidelines)

Sections of your PPC Action Plan are regularly presented in the bulletin to keep information flowing as to what is being addressed and accomplished in the parish. Knowledge empowers people for ministry.

Your PPC Organizational Chart is included as an *insert* in the bulletin several times throughout the year. (see Appendix #6 in your Guidelines)

The important thing is to keep parishioners aware of your PPC, that there are actions being taken on their behalf and help is needed to accomplish your mission/goals.

At main entrance:

As part of their Communication efforts, Councils have posted pictures and names of PPC members (along with Finance Council members) at the entrance of the Church.

On Website:

PPC Pillar leaders along with the title of the Pillar each is responsible for. (Finance Council as well)

PPC e-mail:

Councils have also established a PPC e-mail address to receive comments, questions and suggestions. These answers may be included in the PPC News Corner. This becomes a 2-way communication where parishioners are heard and the PPC keeps informed of the needs, concerns and suggestions from the parishioners.

- Pope Francis: *“How necessary Parish Pastoral Councils are! A Bishop cannot guide a Diocese without Parish Pastoral Councils. A Parish Priest cannot guide without Parish Pastoral Councils.”*

Examples of some info appearing in your PPC bulletin corner:

DID YOU KNOW?

- That our parish has a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)?
- What is a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)? (copy & paste from Upper Room Document Guidelines)
- Who are the members of our PPC? (INSERT)
- That PPC members and contact info. are listed on the front page of our Bulletin?
- That pictures of PPC and contact info. are displayed at the entrance of our church?
- That PPC members meet on a regular basis?
- That all existing ministries in our parish are gathered under the PPC umbrella and are represented by the Pillar Leaders?

If you are a PPC who has just been formed/revitalized through the Revitalization process offered by the Diocesan Renewal & Growth team, it is especially important to keep the momentum of Communication going as you have done during the process.

The sooner a PPC can put its Organizational Chart together and insert it as a page in the bulletin, the better it is for the whole parish to understand what the PPC looks like and who are the members representing them ready to assist you!

PPC Communication Pillar

Knowledge empowers people for ministry!

Where do we begin?

1. Select/nominate/appoint a PPC Communication Pillar leader.
2. Decide how often you wish to have PPC news in bulletin.) Once monthly? Twice? Every week?)
3. Decide on an interesting/attracting title for the PPC section of the bulletin. (see ideas above)
4. Each Pillar Leader (ex: Faith Formation, Liturgy, Community, Evangelization etc.) decides on a month that they will submit news/info to the Communication Pillar Leader to forward to the person responsible for the parish bulletin. Pillar leader may proof read or offer assistance before sending for publishing.
5. Pillar leader may submit info concerning activity from their Pillar, announce upcoming events from their pillar etc... The important thing is that the parishioners are always provided with information concerning the activities of the PPC, under which Pillar these activities come from, and who the Pillar leader is.
6. There may not always be an activity to announce, therefore take the time to explain what your Pillar consists of, or copy & paste info from the Upper Room document
7. Do not be afraid to repeat info from the Upper Room document to ensure that all parishioners are aware of your PPC's existence and who their representatives are.
8. It is important that your Parish Bulletin person is informed about this new section of your bulletin and what the process is.

We hope these few ideas help you form your Communication Pillar. We are always here to assist you!

The Renewal & Growth Committee:

Chair: Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis
pvdupuis@shaw.ca Ph : 204 794 2153

Members: Gisèle Evecsyn, Alesa Sutherland, Raynald Dupuis, Rolande Durand

