

Pastoral Council Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Pastoral Council?

“Catholic pastors consult pastoral councils in order to be better leaders. Bishops and priests ask councillors to investigate some aspect of the church, reflect on it, and recommend their conclusions. In brief, the work of the pastoral council is pastoral planning.

Pastoral councils were first recommended in Vatican II’s “Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops.” They exist in three-fourths of the 18,000 Catholic parishes in the USA.”

Resource:

<http://www.pastoralcouncils.com/>

What is a Steward?

The Stewards of our council oversee the various ministries in our churches. For example, the liturgy steward oversees all of the components of the liturgical celebrations. Although he/she is responsible for overseeing the “environment” ministries, he/she is not necessarily a part of the Altar Society or environment committee. The ministers coordinate those ministries.

Currently we have 7 stewards: Communications, Faith Formation, Liturgy, Maintenance, Sacramental Outreach, Social Outreach and Spirituality.

What is a minister?

A minister is someone who oversees or coordinates one of the many ministries of our churches.

Currently we have over 30 ministries including: Hospital Eucharist, Bereavement, Hope committee, Adult Faith Formation, Ushers, Altar Servers, Bulletin, Marriage preparation, etc. These ministries do not include the many organizations that our church also has such as The Men’s Club, the Young Ladies institute, the Knights of Columbus etc.

To see the full list of Stewards and Ministers go to <http://suttercreekparish.com/Pages/Stewardship>
Council

How do I get involved?

First, pray. Discern what you have a talent for and how much time you can truly devote without overextending yourself. Then, look at the list of ministries on the Stewardship page and contact the steward who is responsible for that ministry. They can answer your questions and tell you who to contact for that ministry. It is ok to just ask questions and not commit.

How long do I need to commit to and can I quit?

We cannot keep you hostage. Once you do commit, don’t feel like you are stuck in a ministry. If it is not for you, or your life changes, it is ok to back out. Try making a commitment for a certain and reasonable time period such as 6 months or a year. When that time is over, reflect on whether or not your experience was life fulfilling and decide what to do next.