

# More Resources

## For the Parish Pastoral Council

April 2008

### **Diocesan Web Site**

Twenty-one different resources for parish pastoral councils are available at the diocesan web site, [www.rockforddiocese.org](http://www.rockforddiocese.org). To the right of the diocesan symbol, click on the link for Parish Planning Resources. The resources are divided into four main sections: Parish Leadership and Leadership Development; Parish Planning, Theory and Concepts; Parish Planning, Writing Pastoral Plans; and Parish Pastoral Councils. Also available are several resources courtesy of the Parish Evaluation Project.

### **Other Diocesan Web Sites**

#### *Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines*

Comprehensive resource from the Diocese of Joliet. The excellent 146 page pdf can be downloaded from <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/omf/docs/DioceseOfJolietGuidebook.pdf>.

#### *Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils*

Bishop Peter J. Jugis' letter about pastor councils of the Diocese of Charlotte was recently published in *Origins*. The 24 page letter can be downloaded from a link at this address: <http://www.charlottediocese.org/parish.html>.

### **Books**

The following paperback books have much useful information about parish pastoral councils. All may be ordered from The Vineyard, local bookstores or from an on-line retailer.

#### *A Concise Guide to Pastoral Planning*

Pickett, William. (2007, Ave Maria Press). A veteran planner focuses on pastoral planning, the most important work of the parish pastoral council. Clear direction for addressing the challenges of planning in three arenas of Church life: the parish, the deanery, and the diocese.

#### *Developing a Vibrant Parish Pastoral Council*

Deegan, Arthur X. (1995, Paulist Press). Eleven chapters, each by a different veteran pastoral planner, make up this good resource. Among the best chapters are "Parish Pastoral Councils: Instruments of Visioning and Planning" and "Choosing Pastoral Council Members."

#### *Four Ways to Build More Effective Parish Councils: A Pastoral Approach*

Fischer, Mark and Raley, Mary. (2002. Twenty-Third Publications). This book is composed of 10 chapters, each written by a specialist. This book is slightly more current than the Deegan book, and includes a valuable chapter on "Appreciative Inquiry: A Powerful Process for Parish Listening and Planning." Other very good chapters are "Working Together to Build an Effective Parish" and "Involving the Right People: Selecting Parish Pastoral Council Members."

#### *Pastoral Councils in Today's Catholic Parish*

Fischer, Mark. (2001. Twenty-Third Publications). Unlike the above books, this is not a handbook for council development. Rather it provides an interesting history on how parish pastoral councils evolved over the last 40 years. Written by the leading expert on councils.

*The Parish Management Handbook*

Zech, Charles. (2003. Twenty-Third Publications). Advertised as a practical guide for pastors, administrators, and other parish leaders, this book contains nine chapters. A useful chapter for parish leaders is “Pastoral Councils and Parish Management.”

*Revisioning the Parish Pastoral Council: a Workbook*

Gubish, Mary Ann and Jenny, Susan. (2001. Paulist Press). Many people prefer the step-by-step approach that this workbook takes. Easy to understand and use, the resource comes out of the experience of the parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania.