

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. 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.