

**Christ the King Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**August 8, 2006, Missoula MT**  
**7pm-8:30pm**

Recorder: Kathy Cross

8 Council Attendees: Nolan Frame, Cathy Schwenk, Jacquie Hofmann, Mary Louise Knapp, Kathy Cross, Carol Buerman, Bill Raymond, Weber Greiser

4 Staff Attendees: Fr. Jeff Fleming, Sr. Doris Faber, Richard Bishop, Sue Monroe

Absent: Robin Ammons, Jim Maunder, Cheryl Hermann, Mark Hermann, Joyce Dombrowski (on vacation), Elaine Kennett, Ali Dombrowski (vacation)  
Mary Louise led the group in prayer.

According to our bylaws, ten council members constitute a quorum. Absent a quorum, the group decided to postpone the council visioning exercise until September. The purpose of the exercise is to clearly define the role of the council, its purpose and to identify the scope of issues appropriate for council consideration. We will strive for a common understanding of ourselves as a group and communicate that to the parish.

The group requested an introduction to the visioning exercise, so Fr. Jeff circulated pages from the Diocese 1988 Synod document that requires that every parish establish a pastoral council. The group compared and contrasted "Parish Council" (organizational, administrative, acting as a board of directors, voting) from "Pastoral Council" (broader vision, big picture, shepherd function, liturgical and prayer life, nonvoting, discerning, relates to pastor). A copy of the document is attached to the end of these notes. All council members were asked to review this information prior to the September meeting.

Several items of business/information were presented to the group:

1. The parish team (staff) scheduled the following adjustments to the Liturgy:

- Saturday: 5:15 pm (remains the same)
- Sunday: 9:00 am (remains the same)
- Sunday: Reschedule 11:00 Mass to 11:15 am, starting August 27<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday: Initiate 7:00 pm Mass, with Reconciliation available at 6:30pm, starting August 27<sup>th</sup>
- Weekday: add Monday 12:10 pm (starting September 11<sup>th</sup> at CTK)
- Weekday: add Wednesday 12:10 pm (starting August 30<sup>th</sup>. Efforts are being made to find a location at the UM University Center for the celebration)

The parish will be notified of these changes in the bulletin, newspaper and website.

These revisions will not replace U-Nite: the meeting time will be shifted accordingly.

Richard Bishop is working to adjust music programming and support for the additional masses to ensure high quality liturgical celebrations.

2. The meeting time for Pastoral Council is changed to the second Tuesday of the month, beginning with at 6:45 for shared time, prayer beginning at 7pm.
3. The Parish Picnic will be held Sunday, September 10 following the 11:15 liturgy. Council members are asked to attend, volunteer for set up or clean up, and wear name tags identifying themselves and that they are council members.
4. Bishop Thomas will formally install Fr. Fleming as pastor on Saturday, October 28 at the 5:15 liturgy. A potluck supper will follow. The liturgy committee is planning the Mass, and the service group will be asked to coordinate the supper. Please watch for further information as planning progresses.
5. We need two more council members: one to complete a one year term and another to serve a two year term. Brian Ferrasci-O'Malley, a student from UM, has taken a job in Washington, D.C., and one position remains open from spring. The openings will be announced in the bulletin and at the Masses, and Jacquie will speak to Larry Vaculik about earlier nominees. Weber will approach Theresa Stergios. We should all approach possible candidates and encourage participation.
6. Jacquie will review the Bylaws regarding the quorum requirement and propose adjustments to accommodate unfilled seats.
7. Pastoral Council will be formally commissioned by Fr. Jeff during an upcoming liturgy, probably in late September. It was suggested that during that ceremony, the Council communicate to the parish the new Vision Statement.
8. The bulletin cover will be revised to include contact names and phone numbers and/or an additional contact lists will be provided at the back of the church.

Carol and Jacquie will lead prayer at the Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 6:45pm Council Meeting. Sr. Rita will be asked to facilitate the visioning exercise.

Reproduction from *Acts of the Synod of the Diocese of Helena, Held August 8-11, 1988, Promulgated October 5, 1988 by the Most Reverend Elden F. Curtiss, Bishop of Helena:*

This pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by forms determined by the diocesan bishop (canon 536).

8. The law of the church gives guidelines for diocesan pastoral councils (canons 511-512), which can be adapted for parish pastoral councils. Such councils are to operate under the authority of the pastor, and are to investigate all things which pertain to pastoral works, to ponder them and to propose practical conclusions about them. The members are to be members of the Christian faithful in communion with the Catholic Church, who are of proven faith, good morals and outstanding prudence. They are to be chosen so that they reflect the diversity of the people of God within the parish. Members of the council include lay people, religious and clergy.

9. The Diocese of Helena has had 20 years of experience with parish councils. These councils have proven valuable to the life of the parish communities. It is with that in mind that Bishop Curtiss consulted the presbyteral council and indicated that each parish is to have a pastoral council.

10. The following resolutions to implement the development of parish pastoral councils in the parishes of the diocese are accepted by the bishop and are the Acts of the Synod of the Diocese of Helena:

**7P A pastoral council is to be established in every parish of the diocese, designed to foster the pastoral activity of the parish, in keeping with the general law of the church and diocesan guidelines. The pastor is responsible to make the pastoral council active and working in the life of the parish. A combined council may be appropriate for two or more small faith communities.**

**8P Because "fostering pastoral activity" is the explicit task of the parish pastoral council, this council is the primary consultative group in the parish. All other parish groups are enlivened and guided by the pastor, with the counsel of the parish pastoral council. The parish pastoral council will assist the pastor in coordinating and ensuring communication about the work of all parish groups to interested parties in the manner most appropriate for that parish.**

**9P The purpose and role of the parish pastoral council will extend to all matters pertaining to the pastoral activities of the parish and will include the following:**

- a. to promote prayer, growth in faith, and faith sharing among themselves and the larger parish community;**
- b. to plan for the future of the parish, which includes surfacing the parish needs and planning ways to meet those needs, and evaluating parish programs in light of the pastoral needs and obligations of the parish;**
- c. to review, plan, and evaluate the pastoral activities of the parish and its ministries, and to set forth practical conclusions concerning them so as to conform the life and actions of the people of God with the Gospel and the traditions of the Catholic Church.**

**10P The following guidelines are to be observed in constituting parish pastoral councils:**

- a. **The council is consultative to the pastor. The pastor will respect the recommendations of the council. If it is necessary to change the recommendation, the pastor will provide the reasons for the change.**
- b. **Members of the council are to be Catholics in good standing, who are known as caring and compassionate persons, who contribute to the parish from their time, talent and treasure, and who participate regularly in parish liturgy.**
- c. **Members are to be selected in a way which enables the widest possible participation of parishioners, and results in council members who truly desire to participate in the council and its work.**
- d. **Prayer and faith sharing are to form a significant part of a parish pastoral council meeting to assist members in their role of discerning parish issues. Pastoral council members should participate in annual retreats and/or days of prayer.**
- e. **Each pastoral council is to formulate a parish mission statement and a set of statutes which guide its activity and include the points in the sections above. The statutes are to be approved by the bishop.**
- f. **Members of parish pastoral councils shall consult with parishioners about the pastoral needs and priorities of the parish.**
- g. **The parish pastoral council cannot be dissolved without the permission of the bishop.**

**11P Unless directed otherwise by the bishop, in the event of the transfer, incapacity or death of the pastor, the parish pastoral council does not convene until the new pastor calls it into session, which he is expected to do within 21 days after the official appointment becomes effective.**