

## **A candidate for Pastoral Council should be**

- a person of prayer
- a good listener
- open to study and reflection
- have some knowledge of what it means to be Church today. To be Church means that all of God's people (Pope, bishops, priests, religious, laity) share the life of God through and in Christ, and are guarded and guided by the Holy Spirit. It means speaking and listening to one another to discern what the Spirit is saying as necessary to meet the needs of our times.
- have some knowledge of the Vatican II documents – their purpose, spirit, direction, theology, or at least, BE OPEN TO LEARNING ABOUT THEM. This is necessary if one is to recognize that structural reforms without the corresponding spiritual renewal soon become hollow and empty shells. Otherwise, Gospel values and genuine Christian concerns never surface to truly challenge one's Christianity, and councilors become immersed in trivia.
- have sense of mission – bringing Christ to people and people to Christ. This implies: an awareness of shared responsibility for the work of the Church; a recognition of differing roles and a plurality of ministries within the Body of Christ; a recognition of and need to use the variety of talents and charisms for the upbuilding of the Church; a sense of accountability. If the priest's accountability is two-way, i.e., to the Bishop and to the people he serves, a councilmember ought to be accountable to the pastor and to the people he or she serves.
- ought to be willing to become considerably involved in the parish. The person who wishes to make no greater commitment in time and energy than attendance at the scheduled meetings should not seek council membership. Council members are asked to take the time to pray privately and together. Council members are asked to listen to the life of the community. A certain amount of time is essential in preparation for the dialogue and consultation that the council is to provide.

Page 59 of the Diocesan Pastoral Council Norms gives definite qualifications for membership.