



# *Archdiocese of Regina*

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## **THE HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR THE ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL**

### **BACKGROUND:**

In response to the documents of Vatican II, "Decree on Pastoral Office of Bishops," par. 27, "Decree on the Laity," par. 26<sup>1</sup>, and Motu Proprio "Ecclesiae Sanctae," par. 16<sup>2</sup>, which strongly recommended the establishment of Diocesan Pastoral Councils as well as Parish Councils, an ad hoc Regina-Centered Committee was established in April 1973. Under the chairmanship of Monsignor P.S. Kinlin, Diocesan Director of Organization and Development, this committee studied the possible establishment of a Pastoral Council for the Archdiocese and presented a report and recommendations.

On August 15, 1973, Most Rev. Michael C. O'Neill, Archbishop of Regina, approved "Guidelines" for the establishment of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and proposed that it be kept under continued study and evaluation with a view to future changes and modifications.

The function of the Diocesan Pastoral Council was summarized by the Committee in the following words:

- a.) To act as a consultative body for the Archbishop before the adoption of any Diocesan policy or program on which he would seek the opinion of the Council,
- b.) To make known to the Archbishop problems and conditions in the Archdiocese which in their opinions merit his attention and to provide the study and research necessary for the evaluation of these problems and conditions.

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<sup>1</sup> Decree on the Laity (#26) "in dioceses, as far as possible, there should be councils which assist the apostolic work of the Church either in the field of making the gospel known and men holy, or in the charitable, social or other spheres. To this end, clergy and religious should appropriately co-operate with the laity. While preserving the proper character and autonomy of each organization, these councils will be able to promote the mutual co-ordination of various lay associations and enterprises"

<sup>2</sup> Ecclesiae Sanctae (#16) "It is the function of the Pastoral Council to investigate everything pertaining to pastoral activities, to weigh them carefully, and to set forth practical conclusions concerning them so as to promote conformity of the life and actions of the People of God with the Gospel"

In his decree formally establishing the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Archbishop O'Neill indicated the composition of the Council.

- a) One non-clerical representative, chosen by the laity of each of the deaneries. These shall be chosen for a three year term and be eligible for re-election for not more than two consecutive terms. (To assure that there be provision for an annual change in representation, three representatives should be chosen each year.)
- b) Two priests serving in the Archdiocese (Religious or Diocesan) will be chosen by the priests in the same manner as the Priest Council are chosen, for a two year term and shall be eligible for re-election for not more than three consecutive terms.
- c) Two Sisters serving in the Archdiocese, shall be chosen by the Sisters in the Archdiocese - the election to be conducted by the Regina Sisters Local. The term of the Sisters will also be two years and they shall be eligible for re-election for not more than three consecutive terms.
- d) A priest may be appointed by the Archbishop with full voting rights to serve as liaison between the Archbishop and the Council.

On March 30, 1974, Archbishop Charles Halpin called to order the first meeting of the new, largely non-clerical consultative body, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. At this meeting, Msgr. Kinlin urged the immediate organization of deanery councils so that representatives "can reflect the thinking of their deaneries". At the time of this meeting, nine out of the thirteen deaneries had established such councils.

Through the ensuing years guidelines were provided to assist in clarifying the following: 1) purpose, 2) objectives, 3) organization, 4) function, 5) membership of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (the consultative group representing the laity of the archdiocese).

## 1. ORGANIZATION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- 1.1 The administration of Archdiocese of Regina is comprised of the following: the Archbishop and members of the Administration. Three consultative groups to the Archbishop are the Council of Priests, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and the Saskatchewan Francophone Interdiocesan Council (CPFIS).
- 1.2 The Administration is appointed by the Archbishop and is accountable to him.
- 1.3 The Council of Priests is elected by the priests and is accountable to them. The Council has a priest representative from each of the Deaneries. The Archbishop may choose the elected priest to be the Dean of the Deanery. The Archbishop may appoint to the Council of Priests, priests who are representative of other groupings (e.g. native ministries, religious communities)
- 1.4 The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council consists of one lay person elected by each deanery. It may also include representatives from various committees or groupings.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL:

- 2.1 To work together in the building of the reign of God among us.
- 2.2 To improve internal communications between the parishes and the Archdiocese.
- 2.3 To provide channels of communication among clergy, religious, laity, Christian faith communities and the secular community.
- 2.4 To engage in the ongoing pastoral formation of the Archdiocese.
- 2.5 To continue to interpret and apply the teachings and spirit of Vatican Council II.

## 3. PURPOSE OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL:

- 3.1 To act as a consultative body for the Archbishop before the adoption of any diocesan policy or program of concern to the laity.
- 3.2 To make known to the Archbishop concerns and conditions in the Archdiocese, that in its opinion merits his attention, and to provide the study and research necessary for the evaluation of these concerns and conditions.
- 3.3 To motivate the Deanery Pastoral Councils and Parish Pastoral Councils, in light of the accepted Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan of decentralization (2009) to carry out the four pillars of the plan: namely education, evangelization, enablement & empowerment of laity and liturgy with the assistance of Diocesan Staff, through participation in Archdiocesan activities, such as workshops, seminars, financial appeals.
- 3.4 To serve as a liaison between Parish Pastoral Councils, Deanery Pastoral Councils and the Archbishop.
- 3.5 To invite the laity to participate in the decision-making process of the Archdiocese.
- 3.6 To meet on a regular basis as a Council and at least once a year have a joint meeting with the Council of Priests.

## 4. FUNCTION OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL:

- 4.1 To generate ideas that promotes the vision and mission of the Archdiocese.
- 4.2 To research the feasibility of diocesan programs and needs.
- 4.3 To offer suggestions and recommendations to the Archbishop and the Administration.
- 4.4 To assist in making diocesan choices.

- 4.5 To facilitate the implementation of diocesan decisions.
- 4.6 To evaluate the results of the decisions.
- 4.7 To establish such committees as are required for the effective operation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL:

- 5.1 One representative of each deanery shall be chosen for a three-year term, and shall be eligible for re-election for not more than two consecutive terms. No member shall serve longer than two full consecutive terms. The election of deanery representatives should be staggered in three years so that an equal number of representatives are elected each year. If the deanery representative cannot make it to a meeting he or she should send a replacement.
- 5.2 The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council is made up of representatives or a representative from each of the following:
  - Deaneries (chairperson or designate)
  - First Nations
  - Vocation Committee
  - Director of Pastoral Services
  - Sisters of the Archdiocese of Regina Association (SARA)
  - Council of Priests
- 5.3 The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council may request representation for ad hoc committees from each of the following:
  - Knights of Columbus
  - Catholic Women's League
  - Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards
  - Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS)
  - Youth
  - Others as deemed necessary by the Archbishop and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

## 6. TERM OF SERVICE:

- 6.1 Deanery representatives shall be elected at the September Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting. (Representatives from three deaneries should be chosen each year to make provision for annual change in representation)
- 6.2 Representation from the Sisters of the Archdiocese shall be chosen by the Sisters through the election conducted by the Regina Archdiocese Sisters Local. The term of service shall be two years, and shall be eligible for re-election for not more than three consecutive terms.

- 6.3 Representation from the Priests serving in the Archdiocese will be chosen by the Priests in the same manner as the Priest Council are chosen, for a two year term and shall be eligible for re-election for not more than three consecutive terms.
- 6.4 The term of service of the chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be a three year term. Election/Appointment of the chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be held at the end of the term of the chairperson and vice-chairperson, which generally would be in November.

