



From the Pastor's Desk

You know the old saying that you should avoid talking about politics and religion with your family so you don't argue and remain friends. A second old saying talks about everybody, anybody, somebody and nobody. "Everybody knows how, anybody can do it, someone should but nobody will." Which leads to my final "not" so old saying, "It's funny how everyone seems to know what's wrong with the parish and how to fix it, yet when the opportunity to do something about it is given, we have nothing to say." Why I am beginning my article this way? Because I would like to call your attention to two ways you can become involved, not just complain, but to actually help provide solutions and direction.

The first opportunity to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council was announced in last week's bulletin. "Who are these people?" you may ask, and "What do they do?" They are all parishioners like you, who have volunteered to serve on the council in spite of how busy they all can be. Each has made a commitment to serve for a term of three years. Any registered parishioner 18 years of age or older is eligible to serve on the council. They have varied backgrounds and skills, but they all have one thing in common; they have responded to their Baptismal call to serve God and His Church. No one on the Pastoral Council was sent in from somewhere else, all of them are from right here at St. Monica. Each one of them has chosen to volunteer to minister to you, the parishioners of St. Monica, because they want to make a difference in the parish and be involved.

What does the council do? They are the advisory board of the parish. They set the direction for where the parish will go through planning and decision-making. They represent the parish organizations and their members to the parish to set goals, direction, find solutions to problems, and establish a sounding board. The council assists in setting the parish budget, ministry development, building plans, and parish operations. If you, or someone you know, would love to be on the Pastoral Council, please fill out and return the form found on page seven in today's bulletin.

While the Pastoral Council addresses concerns that are very broad, there is another council looking for new members that is very focused, the Finance Council. While the Pastoral Council can use multiple skills and backgrounds, Finance Council members require more specific skills. If you are interested in the Finance Council, you should have some business or finance background such as (but not limited to) a CPA, general accounting, banking, business management, or even business law. The Pastoral Council seeks to dream what's possible; the Finance Council deals with the realities of getting there. The Finance Council oversees the parish finances, helps to create and monitor the parish budget, reviews financial statements, reports to the parish at large via the annual report, and creates and monitors capital needs of the parish facilities. The Finance Council meets about five times a year. If you feel called to the Finance Council, please contact Dorothy Spencer, Director of Finance, or myself.

Remember, everybody is called to minister to the needs of Christ's Church here at St. Monica. But, you need to answer and respond to Him.

Fr. Fred Tomzik