



ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF THE LAITY

A lack of transparency and open communication between clergy and laity in the Church is one of the leading factors that has contributed to abuse and its mishandling. This is why we must promote a more inclusive role for laity in the Archdiocese, including active participation in decision-making.

What We Have Accomplished:

- We have established an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, which serves as an advisory body to the Archbishop comprised of laity representing the four counties of the Archdiocese and the diversity of its people.
- Two meetings were convened in the spring of 2019.
- In collaboration with the Archbishop, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council investigates, considers, and proposes practical conclusions on matters which pertain to pastoral works in the diocese. This is accomplished in the spirit of prayer, study, reflection, consultation, collaboration, and discernment.
- Basic training programs are being offered and conducted in parishes to engage more fully the laity and the life and ministry of the parish, particularly in the establishment and training of Pastoral Councils.





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Our Road Ahead:

- We urge all parishes to share the crucial responsibility for the spiritual life and well-being of the Church and this Archdiocese.
- We are facilitating and encouraging the collaboration of laity, religious, and priests in the Archdiocese so that the gifts of all are continually expressed and valued for the good of this local Church.
- We continue training for Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs):

Phase One — in May 2019, we provided existing and new PPCs with an overview of responsibilities as well as best practices in recruiting members, planning, conducting effective meetings, etc.

Phase Two — in Fall 2019, we will assist PPCs in evaluating the success of their meetings thus far and beginning a strategic planning process.

- We will conduct Finance Council Training:
 - Mandated by Canon Law (537), the Parish Finance Council supports the pastor and parish trustees in their stewardship of parish financial resources. The Parish Finance Council is also accountable to the parish community and to the Archbishop of Newark.

Reflection Questions:

1. What steps must still be taken to strengthen and affirm our commitment to this important pillar of our pastoral vision?
2. What actions can you take — as a member of the Church — to support this commitment?

