

OFFICERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The officers of the Parish Council shall be:

- 1) Pastor
- 2) Chairman
- 3) Vice chairman
- 4) Secretary

These officers, with the exception of the Pastor, shall be chosen annually by the Parish Council members from their own elected membership.

TERMS OF OFFICE - PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Staggered terms of office are recommended for elected members to assure continuity of council membership. Each elected member shall serve for a period of sufficient

duration to develop and utilize his acquaintanceship with problems facing the parish. Some reasonable limit, however, must be placed on the duration of terms and on the number of successive terms, e.g.:

- 1) On a council of eighteen elected members, six members may be elected each for a three-year term.
- 2) On a council of fifteen elected members, five members may be elected each year for a three-year term.
- 3) On a council of ten elected members, five members may be elected each year for a two-year term.

If, for any reason, an elected member cannot complete a full term, the vacancy may be filled by an appointee designated cooperatively by the Pastor and Chairman of the Council. The appointment should be effective only until the next parish election, at which time the vacancy shall be filled by an elected representative for the remaining portion of the vacated term.

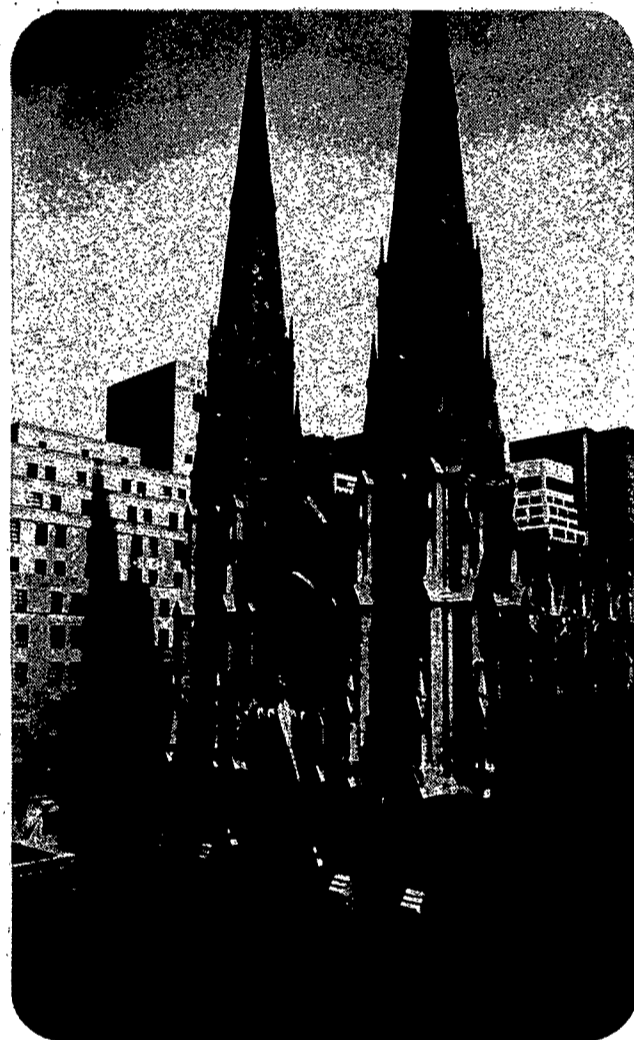
Council members from Religious Communities serving the parish shall be selected from members appointed by their Religious Superiors to serve in the parish.

Council members from parish organizations or societies shall serve the Council for a term concurrent with their official position in the organization which they represent unless that term of office shall exceed in duration the term of elected members of the Parish Council, e.g.:

- 1) If the president or principal officer of an organization related to the parish is elected for a one (1) year term, he may serve the Parish Council for a one-year concurrent term.
- 2) If the president or principal officer of an organization is elected for an undefined term, or may serve consecutive terms which will exceed in duration the term of office allowable for elected members of the Parish Council, the organization may elect a representative from its membership according to its own determination.
- 3) If, for any reason, the president or principal officer of a parish organization or society is unwilling or unable to serve as a member of the Parish Council, the Council should be prepared to accept an alternate from that organization.



... the distinctive character of particular parishes will pose problems toward the resolution of which its own people will be particularly well qualified to respond!



COMMITTEES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Standing committees serve as indispensable operational tools for the Parish Council. They address their efforts to essential but limited areas of pastoral concern. Five committees are strongly urged for each Parish Council as a basis for future coordination with the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

- 1) Education
- 2) Finance
- 3) Human Development
- 4) Liturgy (Worship)
- 5) Program and Resource (Scheduling and Maintenance)

In some parishes, especially those with large congregations, additional committees are proposed for consideration, e.g.:

- 1) The Human Development Committee may be divided into three committees:
 - a) Social Action
 - b) Community Relations
 - c) Communication
- 2) The Education Committee should be subdivided into two primary committees if the parish maintains a parochial school. Further subdivisions may be found advisable according to the size of the parish or the complexity of its program, e.g.,
 - a) Religious Education Committee; Religious education of youth; Adults' continuing religious education; Campus Ministry; Special religious education for the handicapped.
 - b) General Education Committee; School Board; Home and School (PTA).

Standing committees are the working groups of the Parish Council through which policies are generated for implementation. At least one Council member should serve on each Council committee. A Council member of the committee will serve as coordinator between committee and Council. The Council member appointed to a given committee will be selected from members of the Council on the basis of interest and ability in a specific area of parish life. The coordinator will prepare and transmit Council directives to the committee and shall report committee programs and proposals to the Council.

The Coordinator from the Parish Council may, but need not, be committee chairman. Committee members are selected from the general membership; the chairman shall be selected by members of the respective committee.

Additional committees or special purpose committees may be established by the Council as required.