

# ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL



The Catholic  
Archdiocese  
of Edmonton

## Guidelines

### 1. Purpose of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) is a consultative body whose primary purpose is to investigate, consider, and propose practical conclusions which concern the pastoral works in the Archdiocese. Within this context the APC serves to:

- 1.1 Provide a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas within the Archdiocese.
- 1.2 Participate in a consultative process to assist the Archbishop in establishing pastoral priorities for the Archdiocese.
- 1.3 Foster awareness of services available in the Archdiocese.
- 1.4 Provide the Archbishop with a microcosm of the whole Archdiocese.
- 1.5 Provide a forum for personal growth.

*Canon 511:*

*In every diocese and to the extent that pastoral circumstances suggest it, a pastoral council is to be constituted which under the authority of the bishop investigates, considers, and proposes practical conclusions about those things which pertain to pastoral works in the diocese.*

### 2. Membership

- 2.1 Each Dean of the Archdiocese, in consultation with the pastors of the deanery, will recommend 2 people, one man and one woman, to the Archbishop for appointment to the APC.
- 2.2 Ex-Officio members of the APC, as appointed by the Archbishop, include the:
  - Archbishop
  - Chancellor
  - APC Coordinator
  - One representative from the Council of Priests
  - One representative from the Council of Consecrated Women
  - One representative from the Francophone parishes
- 2.3 Others may be appointed to the APC at the discretion of the Archbishop.

*Canon 512:*

*§1. A pastoral council consists of members of the Christian faithful who are in full communion with the Catholic Church - clerics, members of institutes of consecrated life, and especially laity - who are designated in a manner determined by the diocesan bishop.*

*§2. The Christian faithful who are designated to a pastoral council are to be selected in such a way that they truly reflect the entire portion of the people of God which constitutes the diocese, with consideration given to the different areas of the diocese, social conditions and professions, and of the role which they have in the apostolate whether individually or joined with others.*

*§3. No one except members of the Christian faithful outstanding in firm faith, good morals, and prudence is to be designated to a pastoral council.*

### 3. Structure and Procedures

#### 3.1 Role of Members

During their term of office, which is 3 years non-renewable, members of the APC are expected to be aware of and to express the pastoral concerns of the people of God in the Archdiocese. In attaining a pastoral vision, the members have the unique responsibility to represent the concerns of the whole community.

APC members must be aware of emerging issues and recognize the responsibility to articulate these issues in terms of service to the whole Church. This calls for charity, understanding the Catholic teachings, and a faith based on hope and trust in the Holy Spirit.

The responsibility entrusted to the APC members involves acquiring knowledge of Church beyond the parish to the archdiocesan, national, and international levels. APC members must be committed to service and recognize their role as essential. They should realize that the Holy Spirit has called them forth, to share their gifts, and so accept this call humbly.

#### 3.2 Executive

An Executive is chosen from the members of the APC through a process of discernment. The Executive shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, and one Member at Large. The term of the Executive shall be for one year, renewable as long as they remain a member of the APC.

Ex-Officio members of the APC Executive Committee include the:

- Archbishop
- Chancellor
- APC Coordinator
- Director of Evangelization & Catechesis
- One representative from the Council of Priests
- One representative from the Council of Consecrated Women
- One representative of the Francophone parishes

*Canon 513:*

*§1. A pastoral council is constituted for a period of time according to the prescripts of the statutes which are issued by the bishop.*

*§2. When the see is vacant, the pastoral council ceases.*

#### 3.3 Meetings

APC meetings will be held three times annually, generally in October, March, and May/June. APC Executive Meetings will also be held three times annually, each prior to a general APC meeting. Additional meetings may be called as required. The meetings shall recess for the months of July and August.

APC meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the APC, or in his/her absence, by the Vice Chair or by another lay member of the Executive.

Each meeting shall be presided over by the Archbishop. If the Archbishop cannot attend, the meeting shall be postponed to a later time.

*Canon 514:*

*§1. The Pastoral Council possesses only a consultative vote. It belongs to the diocesan bishop alone to convoke it according to the needs of the apostolate and to preside over it; it also belongs to him alone to make public what has been done in the council.*

*§2. The pastoral council is to be convoked at least once a year.*