

Liturgy and Worship Commission

“Liturgical services are not private functions but are celebrations of the Church which is 'the sacrament of unity, namely, 'the holy people united and arranged under their bishops.'”

This commission is concerned with the liturgical functions that serve as the primary demonstrative expressions of faith and worship, viz., the sacraments, as well as programs explicitly involving spiritual growth and development.

Thus, this commission is concerned with discerning, training, developing, scheduling and the renewal of laity in their participation in liturgical celebrations, especially the Eucharistic ministers, lectors, servers, ushers, cantors, greeters and those involved in all areas of musical planning and participation.

The commission members must form themselves into a praying, learning faith community, educating and renewing themselves through prayer, study, and attendance at appropriate workshops, seminars, and similar learning opportunities.

The members must be knowledgeable of diocesan directives and resources, using each in the most effective and economical manner.

This commission is to determine, with other parish members, the liturgical and sacramental needs of the parish community, including

those of shut-ins, care-givers, the ill, nursing home residents and all others in unusual situations or needing assistance.

It is to plan and assist in the coordination of all liturgical, para-liturgical or special celebrations and events; it must also work cooperatively with other commissions and parish organizations.

It must prepare, carry out, and evaluate a yearly action plan based on the long range set by the parish pastoral council (in conjunction with all the commissions) as part of the parish pastoral plan.

It is responsible to prepare and propose to the parish pastoral council an annual budget for liturgically related supplies, equipment and expenses. This budget must be based on goals resulting from the parish pastoral plan.

Formational Ministries Commission

'All Christians--that is, all those who having been reborn in water and the Holy Spirit are called and in fact are children of God--have a right to a Christian education. Such an education not only develops the maturity of the human person. .. but is especially directed towards ensuring that those who have been baptized, as they are gradually introduced to a knowledge of the mystery of salvation, become daily more appreciative of the gift of faith which they have received. '

The needs of the parish faith community "must be the norm by which the religious education programs are established, financed, staffed and evaluated. The programs are to meet the needs of everyone in the parish, whether young or old, whether disadvantaged or privileged." (National Catechetical Directory) The commission shall establish and recommend goals and objectives annually to the parish pastoral council that flow from the pastoral plan of the parish. These goals and objectives are to address the educational and formational needs of the parish and faith community. The commission shall determine, under the direction of the pastor and in collaboration with the Director of Religious Education (DRE), programs that will promote and support total parish education and formational needs in all areas of the parish.

The members of the commission develop policies and support programs in religious education, catechesis, young adult ministry, youth ministry, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCM) for the parish. Where there is a school under the authority of the pastor, the commission is

responsible for the religious education policies in the school as well coordinating those policies with the rest of the parish. The members of this commission need to study available resources on how adults learn. They are to supervise the parish library and literature racks with specific attention to literature concerning vocations for single, religious and married life.

The commission works with the pastor and the DRE to insure that the parish is providing quality religious education programs insuring that every child has access to the program.

The commission works with the DRE to insure that the parish will have an adequate number of certified catechists.

This commission must prepare, carry out, and evaluate a yearly action plan based on the long range goals set by the parish pastoral council (in conjunction with all the commissions) as part of the parish pastoral plan.

It is responsible to prepare and propose to the parish pastoral council an annual budget for those supplies, equipment and expenses necessary to carry out that plan.

Community Outreach Commission

The temporal order is to be renewed in such a way that, while its own principles are fully respected, it is harmonized with the principles of the Christian life and adapted to the various conditions of times, places and peoples. Among the tasks of this Apostolate Christian social action is preeminent. The Council desires to see it extended today to every sector of life, not forgetting the cultural sphere.

This commission is to promote outreach programs with emphasis on social services, pro-life, social justice and community ministries, co-operating with other churches and civic organizations in projects aimed at community improvement.

It is to take such steps as are necessary to increase awareness within the parish of the extent of poverty in the local community, of the resources available to meet the needs of the poor, and of the spiritual responsibility of all to address those needs.

It is to identify and analyze the major social problems in the parish as well as in the larger civic community. It maintains working contact with resource people and pertinent agencies for problems such as drugs, delinquency, alcoholism, and spousal and child abuse.

It promotes suitable projects in the areas of economics, politics, and international life.

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Parish Life Commission

The family is the principal school of the social virtues which are necessary to every society. . . it is therefore above all in the Christian family . . . that children should be taught to know and worship God and to love their neighbor Parents should, therefore, appreciate how important a role the truly Christian family plays in the life and progress of the whole people of God.

This commission is concerned with those matters that build an internal family spirit and improve Christian family life.

It is to help parish family members to develop a deeper understanding of and commitment to their respective roles. This includes programs of concern and support for single persons including the widowed, divorced and separated, as well as single parent families.

It is also concerned with those matters that help to build the parish family community.

This commission identifies and coordinates the social and recreational needs of the parish, maintains an annual calendar of scheduled events to give to the Administration/Communications Commission, and suggests and institutes programs of welcome for new parishioners.

It must prepare, carry out, and evaluate a yearly action plan based on the long range goals set by the parish pastoral council (in conjunction with all the commissions) as part of the parish plan. It evaluates its activities

especially social, ministerial, and recreational projects as to their effectiveness for community growth; it institutes procedures to increase involvement of parishioners in planned parish activities.

It is responsible to prepare and propose to the parish pastoral council an annual budget for those supplies, equipment, and expenses necessary to carry out its action plan.

Evangelization/Communication Commission

"On all Christians, accordingly, rests the noble obligation of working to bring all...throughout the whole world to hear and accept the divine message of salvation"

"In achieving all this, the laity, that is Christians who have been incorporated into Christ and live in the world, are of primary importance and worthy of special care"

"...evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself. At its essence are the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith, which are both works of the Spirit of God."

'All the members of the Church should make a concerted effort to ensure that the means of communication are put at the service of the multiple forms of the apostolate without delay and as energetically as possible, where and when they are needed.'

The commission develops programs to help make the parish a welcoming community, ready and able to share the Good News of our faith among members of our parish family and also with people of other faiths and Catholics who no longer participate in church life.

This commission promotes and sponsors programs that will implement the US Conference of Bishops' vision for evangelization including the national plan *Go and Make Disciples*.

It sponsors parish events benefitting foreign and domestic missions. In conjunction with the Community Outreach Commission, it promotes, if possible, the adoption of a foreign parish or a poor inner city community.

The pastor and commission insure that training is provided in the nature of evangelization and in strategies and tactics of - - evangelizing. It will also provide information specific to the groups being evangelized or served.

The commission develops close communication with parish commissions and organizations to facilitate communication and participation. The commission will offer programs for spiritual renewal, education, and outreach support in evangelization efforts.

It works with the other ministries of the parish to discover special problems and factors accounting for the Catholics leaving the parish, for the lack of interest of the unchurched, and for lack of response from minorities. It will design programs to meet these needs.

It furnishes communication material to local and diocesan media.

It plans, coordinates, and distributes an annual parish calendar of activities.

It develops and maintains the parish website.

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It is responsible to prepare and propose to the parish pastoral council an annual budget for those supplies, equipment, and expenses necessary to carry out that plan.

Ecumenism Commission

"The concern for restoring unity involves the whole Church, faithful and clergy alike. It extends to everyone, according to the talent of each, whether it be exercised in daily Christian living or in theological and historical studies."

When I say for me, Bishop of Rome, the ecumenical task is one of the pastoral priorities of my Pontificate, I think of the grave obstacle which the lack of unity represents for the proclamation of the gospel. A Christian Community which believes in Christ and desires with gospel fervour the salvation of people can hardly be closed to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who leads all Christians towards full and visible unity."

The Second Vatican Council speaks of five ways of working towards Christian unity. These are:

- Making every effort to eliminate words, judgments and actions which do not respond to the condition of separated brothers and sisters with truth and fairness and so make mutual relations between them more difficult
- Through dialogue between competent experts from different churches and communities explaining the teachings of each communion in greater depth and bringing out clearly its distinctive features. Through such dialogue, everyone gains a truer knowledge and more just appreciation of the teachings and religious life of each communion.

- Co-operating more closely in whatever projects a Christian conscience demands for the common good
 - Coming together for common prayer, where this is permitted;
 - Examining our own faithfulness to Christ's will for the Church and, wherever necessary, undertaking the task of renewal and reform.
- (UR 4).

This commission develops within the parish a commitment to ecumenism/ interfaith dialogue as integral to its life and ministry. The commission will promote dialogue with other denominations, faith formation within the Catholic tradition, and a clear understanding of Catholic doctrine as it touches the lives of other Christians, Jews, other religions, and non-believers.

It will plan and coordinate efforts to heal divisions among Christians within the parish.

It reaches out to people of good will who seek one faith, one baptism in Christ Jesus.

It invites and guides dialogue through study groups with other Christian and non-Christian groups.

It plans ecumenical programs and prayer experiences, especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; it cooperates with other local churches in their programs and activities promoting ecumenism.

It must prepare, carry out, and evaluate a yearly action plan based on the long range goals set by the parish pastoral council (in conjunction with all the commissions) as part of the parish pastoral plan.

It is responsible to prepare and propose to the parish pastoral council an annual budget for those supplies, equipment, and expenses necessary to carry out that plan

Buildings/Facilities Commission

"Worthy of special respect and praise in the Church are the laity, single or married, who, in a definitive way or for a period, put their person and their professional competence at the service of institutions and their activities. "

This commission inspects and inventories all parish properties, equipment, furnishings and facilities; it reviews and recommends needed additions, repairs, replacements and servicing, to be actuated, if needed, under a schedule to be submitted with the recommendation for the work.

It discerns the use of parish talent where safety and performance do not require the use of professional services.

It prepares and recommends policies or guidelines to the parish pastoral council for the use of parish facilities, including security, utilities, services, and personnel. It is responsible to publish the approved guidelines.

It prepares and recommends, in coordination with the other commissions, facility plans and improvements.

It reviews parish insurance needs and makes suggestions with special reference to diocesan policies.

It must prepare, carry out, and evaluate a yearly action plan based on the long range goals set by the parish pastoral council (in

conjunction with all the commissions) as part of the parish pastoral plan.

It is responsible to prepare and propose to the parish pastoral council an annual budget for those supplies, equipment, and expenses necessary to carry out that plan.

**Commission Application
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church**

Name: _____ **Date:** _____
Address: _____ **City** _____ **State** __ **Zip Code** _____
Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____
Email: _____

- 1. How long have you been a member of our parish?**
- 2. Please describe any previous experience you may have had serving on a parish Pastoral / Finance Council or Diocesan Board or Commission.**
- 3. In what parish organizations or activities are you currently involved?**
- 4. Briefly describe your vision for our parish community in the next five years. What do you think our parish community should be like in five years?**
- 5. What areas of our parish life do you think need improving, and what suggestions do you have for improving these areas?**
- 6. What talents and gifts do you have that could be useful on a Commission?**
- 7. Why are you interested in serving on a Commission?**
- 8. On which commission are you interested in serving?**

The Commissions follow a collaborate consensus building model to make its decisions. Each member is asked to be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking through other members. This requires respectful and active listening as others share their opinions and insights. There are times when members will disagree with each other, but all members are expected to treat each other with the respect and dignity due to a fellow Christian.

Are you comfortable working in such an environment? _____

Commissions meet monthly on a set date and time from September through June. Each member is appointed to a two-year term. Will you be able to fulfill this commitment? _____

Thank you for your interest in serving your parish and working for the Glory of God here on earth.