

Archdiocese of Saint Boniface

For the leadership, renewal and growth of the parish

A Team, a Council, an Assembly

2015-10-06

The Church's Mission

"We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church," It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Evangelization is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection. (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, n° 14)

The Missionary Conversion of Parishes

The parishes of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface are called to become "Churches Which Go Forth"¹, that is to say, missionary parishes that work in co-responsibility to reach and welcome all people who do not know Christ or who do not follow Him, to help guide parishioners toward spiritual maturity and involve them in pastoral activities.²

The Parish Leadership Team

The Parish Leadership Team enables the priest to fulfill the Church's mission assisted by laypersons who assume responsibilities within the parish. Thanks to this Team, the various aspects of the Church's mission are carried out in a balanced manner.

The members of the **Parish Leadership Team** participate co-responsibly in parish pastoral duties with the priest (pastor, moderator or administrator) in order to lead the people of God.

The members of the **Parish Leadership Team** serve the mission and unity of the parish, but they don't do everything. With an evangelical spirit, they see to the distribution of tasks and the implementation of activities. They find their inspiration in prayer and in listening to and sharing the Word of God.

Members of the **Parish Leadership Team**:

1. The parish priest
2. An evangelization and healing coordinator
3. A welcoming and fellowship coordinator
4. A coordinator for the formation of Christian life (faith education and spiritual growth)
5. A sanctification coordinator (sacraments, prayers, liturgy)
6. A charity and justice coordinator
7. The Chair of the PPC
8. The Chair of the PFC

¹ This is the expression used by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel."

² From the "Upper Room" to "the Ends of the Earth," page 4

The members of the **Parish Leadership Team** belong to the PPC and serve a 3-year term, which may be renewed once. After a 3-year break a team member may be given a new mandate renewable once. The Team meets at least once a month.

If the Parish Pastoral Council deems it useful to the smooth operation of the parish, other members may become part of the **Parish Leadership Team**. This may include people with experience in communications, planning, youth ministry, volunteer recruitment, couples ministry, leadership training, etc.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The **Parish Pastoral Council** is a team of baptised people (priests, deacons, religious, laypeople) working in co-responsibility and consultation in order to listen to the calls of the Spirit, reflect on orientations and propose pastoral projects. Its goal is the missionary conversion of the parish. It ensures that the parish takes initiatives so that the Gospel can be welcomed and experienced in the lives of the people who live in the parish area.

The **Parish Pastoral Council** evaluates the parish's pastoral activities; it considers itself and acts as a compass that helps the community maintain the course of its mission. It proposes priorities in line with its pastoral situation and with diocesan orientations (see *Renewal and Growth of Parishes* document). It also helps the Parish Leadership Team stay true to its purpose. This is certainly one of the biggest challenges of the **Parish Pastoral Council**: to be advisors for the mission and let the members of the Parish Leadership Team operate in their respective spheres.

It is made up of 12 to 15 people:

- the members of the Parish Leadership Team
- persons involved in the various movements and services of the parish
- persons representing various matters specific to the parish

A balance of age groups, social and geographic milieus, and equal numbers of men and women should be assured.

The Parish Leadership Team informs the **Parish Pastoral Council** of its activities at PPC meetings. The Parish Leadership Team and the **Parish Pastoral Council** must commit to communicating regularly with the Christian community.

The PPC meets at least once every trimester. It holds a Parish Assembly at least once a year, during which it listens to the suggestions, wishes and questions of the Christian community.

The Parish Assembly

The **Parish Assembly** is comprised of all the members of the people of God, who gather at the Parish. It is called at least once a year, outside of liturgical assemblies, by the Parish Pastoral Council.

The Parish Leadership Team informs the Assembly of its chosen orientations and receives its questions, reactions and propositions.

A meeting place for all baptized people without distinction, a place of fellowship, it allows each person to be heard, comforted in ecclesiastical communion and inspired in his/her mission.

Specific Roles of the Parish Leadership Team

Each member of the Parish Leadership Team has a specific function:

- 1. The role of the priest within the Team:** He ensures that the Team works to make the parish a "Church Which Goes Forth", a missionary church. He is particularly concerned with the Team's unity with all the other groups in the parish. He exercises his leadership to encourage the members of the Team to involve all parishioners in its mission.
- 2. The role of the Evangelization³ and Healing Coordinator:** He is responsible for the parish's evangelization and healing activities.
- 3. The role of the Welcoming and Fellowship Coordinator:** He ensures that evangelized persons or visitors are welcomed in a memorable way. He ensures follow-up with visitors and that activities are put in place that facilitate connections of friendship and fellowship, both for evangelized persons and parishioners, within the Christian community.
- 4. The role of the Coordinator for the Formation of Christian Life (Faith Education and Spiritual Growth):** He is responsible for the parish's faith and spiritual growth formation activities. This includes Christian initiation and Christian life formation of adults, teens and children.
- 5. The role of the Sanctification Coordinator (sacraments, prayers, liturgy):** He ensures firstly that prayer activities for the renewal and growth of the parish are put in place. He sees to the organization of the liturgical and sacramental life (baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, anointing of the sick, sacrament of reconciliation, marriage). This person reflects on how to make celebrations lively and interesting for persons whom the Church endeavors to reach by evangelization. He helps parishioners to pray and grow in faith through the liturgy. Finally, he is responsible for the formation of the various liturgical actors.
- 6. The role of the Charity and Justice Coordinator:** He is responsible for planning activities aimed at helping the poor, promoting social justice and protecting Creation.
- 7. The role of the Chair of the PPC within the Team:** He leads the Parish Leadership Team, determines the meeting agendas, encourages decision-making and ensures follow-up. This person enables each of the members to fulfill his or her role, while ensuring cohesion and communion within the Parish Leadership Team. He ensures good communication both within the parish and outside of it.
- 8. The role of the Chair of the Parish Financial Council within the Team:** He ensures that sufficient financial resources are allocated to pastoral projects. He is the go-between with the Parish Financial Council. He helps the other members of the Parish Leadership Team make a budget for the projects it wishes to undertake. He reflects on what material contributions can be made to evangelization and welcoming newcomers.

³ Evangelization is an invitation to become a disciple of Christ to people who have not yet decided to do so. They may be non-Christians, or people who have been baptized but have distanced themselves from the Church and/or Christ.