

Constitution
Diocese of St. Cloud
Four Pillars in Faith Area Catholic Community (ACC)
St. Louis Bertrand, Foreston; St. Mary's, Milaca; St. Kathryn's, Ogilvie; St. Mary's, Mora

Date Approved 12-9-2021

Amended 9-19-2023

PREAMBLE:

Four Pillars in Faith ACC Pastoral Council bases its existence on the principles set forth in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council (Art. 37).

“A great many wonderful things are to be hoped for from this familiar dialogue between the laity and their pastor: in the laity, a strengthened sense of personal responsibility, a renewed enthusiasm, a more ready application of their talents to the projects of their pastor. The latter, for their part, aided by the experience of the laity, can more clearly and suitably come to decisions regarding spiritual and temporal matters. In this way, the whole Church, strengthened by each one of its members, can more effectively fulfill its mission for the life of the world.”

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Four Pillars in Faith ACC Pastoral Council, hereinafter referred to as the Pastoral Council.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Pastoral Council is concerned, in general, with implementing, at the parish level, the mission of the Diocese of St. Cloud: We, the people of God of the Diocese of Saint Cloud, in union with the Universal Church, believe in and proclaim the presence of Jesus Christ in our world. *Our mission is to be His heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice.*

The mission of the Four Pillars in Faith ACC is to follow the teachings and ministry of Jesus Christ as revealed through the Roman Catholic Church and expressed through the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Cloud. The Four Pillars in Faith ACC is committed to worshipping the Lord and to be of service to the family of God.

The primary goal of the Pastoral Council is total and continual spiritual renewal and outreach.

The Pastoral Council will discover and listen to the needs of the parishes of the Four Pillars in Faith ACC and set direction by prayerful reflection.

The Pastoral Council serves as a connecting link between the Diocese of St. Cloud and the Four Pillars in Faith ACC, communicating and supporting the policy and programs of the Bishop to the people, and also making full use of diocesan resources to meet the needs of the Four Pillars in Faith ACC community.

The Pastor is solely and completely responsible to the Bishop of St. Cloud for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the parishes. The Pastoral Council does not directly share this responsibility but exercises its consultative role in support of the Pastor's responsibility.

ARTICLE III: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In union with the Pastor, the Pastoral Council, shares the responsibility for the life and welfare of the parishes within the Four Pillars in Faith ACC.

SECTION 1: COOPERATION

The Pastoral Council recognizes the canonical authority of the Bishop and the Pastor and will not assume any legal or canonical responsibility or authority. *The Pastor will consult with the Pastoral Council on all canonically required issues, and will endeavor to consult with the Pastoral Council on all other matters regarding the spiritual life and welfare of the parishes.*

SECTION 2: PASTOR'S AUTHORITY

The Pastor is canonically responsible for the Parishes; therefore, the Pastoral Council shall offer advice and support to the Pastor.

SECTION 3: CONCILIATION

Whenever there is a conflict or disagreement between the Pastor and Pastoral Council which they cannot resolve, either party may seek the assistance from the Diocese of St. Cloud for conciliation of the matter.

SECTION 4: PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

The Pastoral Council must support and encourage planning, creativity, and accountability in the parish organizations, committees, and boards. The Pastoral Council will evaluate their activities, recommend changes, and encourage the undertaking of new programs, which are responsive to the needs of the Four Pillars in Faith ACC.

The Pastoral Council should offer opportunities for parishioners to become involved in every phase of parish life.

SECTION 5: ONE MISSION

The Pastoral Council is preeminently responsible for the advancement of the pastoral mission of the parishes.

SECTION 6: POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

The Pastoral Council must respect the distinction between policy and administrative decisions. The day-to-day operations of each individual parish within the Four Pillars in Faith ACC is clearly the responsibility of the Pastor and the respective staff.

The role of the Pastoral Council is to *recommend* broad policies and to *offer* priorities for the Christian community which it serves.

A policy decision is a guiding principle, often with long-term consequences (e. g., deciding that the parish will support, on a continuing basis, a poor mission in a Third World Country).

An administrative decision is concerned with day-to-day operation of each individual parish within the Four Pillars in Faith ACC (e.g., security of property, access to buildings, hours of parish staff).

SECTION 7: GIFTS OF OTHERS

As the chief coordinating and unifying structure, the Pastoral Council will seek constantly to draw forth the talents, energies, and insights of all parishioners and channel this "variety of gifts" for the building up of the whole Body of Christ.

SECTION 8: COMMUNICATION WITH PARISH

The Pastoral Council must communicate regularly with the parish at large. A summary of each Pastoral Council meeting is to be publicized on the bulletin boards of each parish as well as on the Four Pillars in Faith ACC website.

ARTICLE IV: AMENDMENTS

This Pastoral Council Constitution may be amended by a consensus of the Pastoral Council or by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Council, provided the amendment has been recorded and presented at two Pastoral Council meetings.