

Hope-in-action and the ministry of leadership

Within the ministry of the Parish Pastoral Council there must be a response to the Holy Spirit's blessing of 'hope in action'. For leadership of its nature guides a community to a place that hasn't been reached yet. It is significant and necessary for the PPC to support and encourage the many other ministries that are currently giving shape and life to the Parish.

And still there is more to do, to achieve, to be if we are truly carrying forward the work of Christ.



What's new in our neighbourhood and in the world that requires a new response and service? Who are our people, and what has changed for them? What about the energy, creativity and passion we see in many aspects of the lives of our young people – how is our Parish community engaging with them, recognizing and respecting their Baptism, developing ministry initiatives and responses?

The ministry of leadership – which is the role of the Parish Pastoral Council – will always both engage with the people and also reach forward so that we are always becoming more and more the Church that we have been baptized and called to be!

Fr. Maurie Cooney

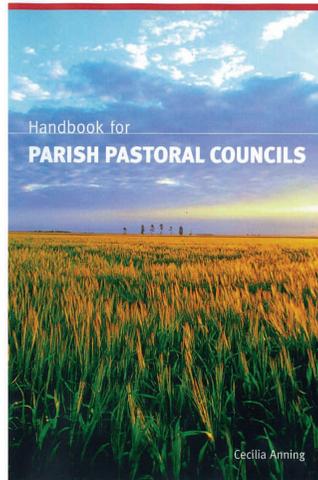
For further information see website:

Parish Pastoral Councils
in Australia
www.ppc.catholic.org.au/ppc

An initiative of the
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

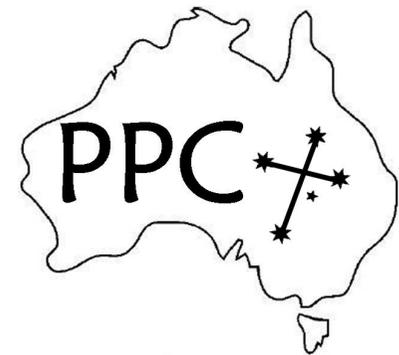
Helpful resource:

Anning, C. (2007) 3rd edition
Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils



For details of contents, reviews and
online ordering see:
www.bne.catholic.net.au/opc/manual.html

Parish Pastoral Councils



PPC as Ministry

Whose responsibility is it, this Church?

Of course it is God's Church!

And it is also a Church whose people are baptised to carry out the mission of the Church. Vatican 2 teaches that we together are 'the People of God'. Pope John Paul II taught that this 'communion' of people with God is to carry out the mission of the Church: *'Communion and mission are profoundly connected with each other, they interpenetrate and mutually imply each other, to the point that communion represents both the source and the fruit of mission: communion gives rise to mission and mission is accomplished in communion'* [Christifideles Laici, 32].

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist initiate us further into the life of this people of God, and together we carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit [Vat 2, *Church in the Modern World*, 3]. Some aspects of living out this 'communion for mission' are seen in our worship, our proclaiming the transforming message of the Gospel, our developing community life in the Spirit, our serving one another and the world.



And 'ministry'?

This mission of the Church - in which all are to be engaged - is further shaped in various expressions of 'ministry'. Parishes will organise some aspects of their life and mission. One way of speaking of ministry is this: those public activities which are undertaken in the name of the Parish community by a baptized person appointed to that service with a view to carrying out the Church's mission.

Ministries 'carry forward the work of Christ' in an organized way, with clear direction and purpose, in cooperation with others, within the vision of the Parish in collaboration with the appointed leadership of the Parish.

So there are many 'ministries'?

Yes! Think of those many expressions in your own Parish – planned, appointed, accountable, collaborative within the overall mission: for example -

- Parish Pastoral Council
- Baptism preparation
- RCIA team
- Teaching
- Catechists
- St Vincent de Paul
- Liturgy planning
- Lectors
- Extraordinary ministers of Eucharist
- Visitation of the Sick
- Care and Outreach
- Adult education
- Family support
- Youth engagement
- Prayer group
- and many, many more

Parish Pastoral Council as ministry

The PPC will be an effective ministry for the Parish when it applies to itself the criteria of ministry – accepting humbly and with conviction the role that is asked, being clear about the vision for the mission of the Parish, being purposeful in its discussions, deliberations, decisions and advice within this vision, providing for its continuing formation, being open and engaged in its relationship with the rest of the Parish. This ministry of leadership is a vital catalyst for the mission of the Church as lived in the Parish!



Parish Pastoral Council and other ministries

One of the key roles of the PPC – in its advice to and in collaboration with the Parish Priest - is to support the other ministries in the Parish, to encourage them, to assist their continuing formation, to initiate new ministries. The role of the PPC is to have an overview of the Parish, to develop the vision for the mission of the Church in the Parish, to plan for the continuing growth of the Parish, to advise on the arrangements that need to be in place so that the ministries can properly fulfil their roles. The PPC itself will model this dynamic in its own prayer, continuing formation, accountability, collaboration, planning, action – and its joy in commitment to the mission of 'carrying forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit'.