

GUIDELINES FOR PARISH WORSHIP COMMISSIONS

Diocese of Lansing

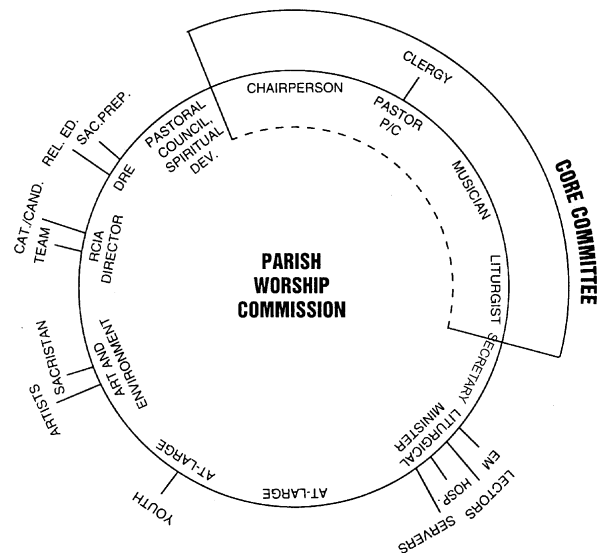
INTRODUCTION

“The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the fount from which her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of his church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord’s Supper”
Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, n 10

MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

The Commission should be a reflection of the community which it leads and serves. Its members, therefore, should be representative of the general parish population, be registered parishioners and active in the sacramental life of the community.

Since the cooperation and leadership of the presider is essential to any good liturgical celebration, the pastor (or pastoral coordinator and sacramental minister) should sit on this commission. In addition, the Commission should include the parish liturgist, Music Director, a representative from each of the liturgical ministries, the Director of Religious Education, the Director of Christian Initiation, or a member of the Catechumenal team. A member of the parish’s Spiritual Development Commission, a liaison from the Pastoral Council, the art and environment chair person, and several at-large members (including youth) complete the Commission. From all these persons a chairperson should be elected. A secretary should also be elected or appointed or perhaps commission members will each take a turn recording discussions and consensus.



FORMATION AND TRAINING

The spiritual and liturgical formation of the commission should be through and ongoing. They should be familiar with the scope and sequence of the Liturgical Year, the order of the Mass, the format of the Lectionary and the Sacramentary, and have a working knowledge of the liturgical documents. They should appreciate the various rites of the church, especially the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

The parish should provide funding for regular formation and training. This might include regional or diocesan workshops, conventions, books, and periodicals.

REQUIREMENTS

Initially, the pastor or pastoral coordinator may wish to appoint parish members based on their experience, qualifications and compatible personalities. Later, the usual process of nomination or application, review, and election or selection-by-lots may occur.

A fair, complete, and written job description should be available to each interested parishioner.

Terms should not exceed three years with provision made for the orderly expiration of terms in varied years.

DEFINITION OF DUTIES

A Parish Worship Commission:

- assesses the needs of the worshipping assembly and provides for ongoing evaluation to see that those needs are being met
- advises the pastor, pastoral coordinator, or sacramental minister
- provides direction for those who prepare liturgies. Under its leadership, parishioners implement plans for effective celebrations
- provides for the liturgical education of all parishioners
- promotes the development of competent liturgical ministers

With the pastor it:

- implements diocesan policy
- sets goals for the progress of the liturgical life of the parish

As an entity of the parish pastoral council, it:

- maintains constant communication with other parish commissions

THE COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commission should meet monthly, although some liturgical seasons may require more frequent meetings. Prior to each meeting, a core committee consisting of the pastor/pastoral coordinator, liturgist, music director, and chairperson, should communicate to set

the agenda for the parish worship commission.

Prayer should always be an integral part of every meeting. Each meeting's agenda should include ongoing study and formation, a method of evaluating prior celebrations, discussion and future planning. The core committee should be open to the suggestions of the commission as well as individual parishioners (Canon 212 §2).

RESOURCES

The Diocesan Worship Commission advises and serves the bishop and is pleased to act as a model and resource for parish commissions (CSL, 45).

The Office of Worship offers on-site training sessions for parish commissions. It will provide a start-up package that includes prayer, reflection questions, a sample meeting agenda, sample job descriptions, and evaluation forms.

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