

**CONSTITUTION
FOR
ST. VERONICA PARISH COUNCIL
Drafted 11/8/2008
1/13/09**

MISSION STATEMENT

We are St. Veronica Parish - Imaging Christ to the World.

ARTICLE 1—NAME

The name of this organization shall be St. Veronica Parish Council, hereinafter referred to as the Parish Council.

ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose and objectives of the Parish Council shall be:

1. To involve all members of the worshipping community of St. Veronica Parish in the functioning of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the parish;
2. To be a vehicle of communication between the priests, religious, and laity of the parish as well as between the Christian community and the secular;
3. To discern the needs, spiritual and temporal of the parish, its people, its neighbors, and to respond to those needs; and
4. To promote the mutual coordination of the various parish organizations and committees and their programs while preserving their proper character and autonomy.

ARTICLE III -- SCOPE

Section 1. The Council shall be the policy formulating body in all matters of the parish, including but not limited to the spiritual, social, and financial, except to the extent limited by faith and morals, Church and Civil Law, or archdiocesan policy/norms.

Section 2. In any case where any member of the council, including the pastor, interprets an action of the Council or any of its committees to be outside the limits set forth in Section 1, such member shall present such interpretation no later than the next meeting of the Council and ask for reconsideration. Pending reconsideration, the effect of the action shall be suspended.

Section 3. In any case where reconsideration has failed to resolve the matter, the pastor and or other Council member(s) may then take the matter to the Office of the Archbishop or one appointed by him for clarification or arbitration. Any decision resulting from such appeal shall be final. Meantime, the effect of the action shall remain suspended.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Council shall be comprised of the following members, all of whom must be baptized, practicing Catholics, and all of who are voting members.

- (a) **Ex Officio Members:** All priests assigned to the parish; the two lay Trustees of the parish; the parish delegate to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and the parish council delegate to the St. Thomas Aquinas Academy Advisory Board.
- (b) **Special Elective:** One (or a shared position) youth member who shall have attained age fourteen but who shall not have attained age eighteen, to be discerned annually by the youth of the parish who have attained age fourteen but who shall not have attained age eighteen. The youth members shall serve a one-year term.
- (c) **Ten at-large, discerned members** who shall be members of the parish and who have attained age eighteen.

Section 2. Of the ten at-large discerned members:

- (a) One-third of the at-large members shall be discerned annually by the parish, each for a term of three years.
- (b) At-large members shall be limited to two consecutive terms at a time. The members discerned shall begin their terms on July 1, following the discernment.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Council shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary, and an assistant secretary.

Section 2. The Council officers shall be discerned from and by the Council and shall serve a one-year term, beginning with the first regular meeting **after the June Parish Council meeting.** (11/8/2008)

Section 3. No officers shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE VI -- RELATIONSHIP OF THE PASTOR TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1. The pastor presides at the Council:

- (a) by making certain that the scope of the Council's concerns reflects the entire mission of the Church;
- (b) by enabling the Council to build a community of faith and an atmosphere of trust among Council members, making certain that they have adequate training;
- (c) by assisting in formulating the Council agenda;
- (d) by sharing in the dialogue that leads to the formulation of policy; and
- (e) by executing the policies formulated by the Council.

Section 2. The pastor, in addition to the above, presides at the Council by serving as the chief administrative officer of the parish,

Section 3. For acts of extraordinary administration, a proxy must be obtained from the Archbishop according to a formula specified by him.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Council meetings shall be held monthly. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, the pastor, or upon written request of at least five (5) members of the Council. A quorum consisting of a simple majority of the filled Parish Council positions (11/8/08) is necessary in order to conduct business at either a regular or a special Council meeting.

ARTICLE VIII -- MANNER OF OPERATION

Section 1. The Council's manner of operation shall be communal discernment, which includes prayerful reflection, gathering of information, and shared wisdom. The usual method through which the Council implements discernment is consensus; if not possible, then majority vote.

ARTICLE IX -- STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Council shall have the following standing committees:

1. Finance Committee (11/8/08)
2. Christian Formation
3. Human Concerns
4. Prayer and Worship
5. Stewardship and Outreach Committee (11/8/08)

Section 2. The Council may establish ad hoc committees, as the needs require.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Council at two consecutive Council meetings, and thereafter by a majority of the parishioners present at the annual or special meeting of the parish. Such amendments shall become effective when approved by the Office for Parishes.

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Original ratified: February 14 & 15, 1976 Accepted: July 12, 1976
Revised: March 12, 1979
Amended: January 12 & February 9, 1981
Revised: November 10 & December 8, 1986
Amended: December 14, 1992 & January 11, 1993
Dates of Approval by the Parish: March 6 & 7, 1993
Amended: September 14, November 9, 1998 & January 11, 1999
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Amended: March 18, 2004
Amended: January 13, 2009