

*Separate diocesan surveys deal with protection of children and financial a...

Use the following Survey to assess the progress of your own diocese and document the achievements local VOTF members have contributed to that. We will celebrate our combined progress at the October 19-21, 2007 National Convention in Providence Rhode Island.

Please complete the survey by SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

Diocese:

Person/Affiliate filling out survey:

1. Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC)

Does your diocese have a Diocesan Pastoral Council to advise the Bishop? If NO, proceed to page 2.

Yes

No

A. How are the members of the Council selected?

a. majority appointed by the bishop

b. majority elected by their parishes but approved by the bishop

c. even mix of appointed, elected, and organizational representatives

d. majority elected by their parishes in credible elections with term limits

B. Composition of the DPC

majority are clergy or religious

even mix of clergy, lay, and religious

majority are lay people

C. Role and influence of the DPC

acts as a rubber stamp

only advisory to the bishop

- jn advisory but bishop usually follows recommendations
- jn policy making – Bishop abides by decisions of the DPC

D. Functioning of DPC

- jn meetings are closed and/or agenda is controlled by the bishop
- jn meets regularly in open meetings but doesn't do much
- jn representatives may initiate items for discussion
- jn provides meaningful oversight on substantive issues such as:
 - jn overall diocesan direction, religious education, social concerns, family and youth, safe environment, finances, and other diocesan pastoral works

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2. Parish consultation

A. When a new pastor is to be appointed:

- jn the diocese simply announces the new pastor.
- jn the diocese consults with parish leaders.
- jn the diocese broadly consults with parish members in open meetings
- jn after consulting with the parish, their input is generally honored.

B. When faced with a possible parish closing or merger:

- jn the diocese simply announces the decision.
- jn the diocese consults broadly with parish leaders.
- jn after consulting with parish leaders, a mutually agreeable plan is developed
- jn there have been no contested parish closings/mergers in our diocese

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3. Receptivity to the concerns and competency of the lay faithful

A. Does the bishop solicit input from laity competent in their fields?

Yes

No

B. Does diocesan staff solicit input from laity competent in their fields?

Yes

No

C. Does the diocesan newspaper allow opposition voices?

i.e., letters to the editor, columns, op ed pieces.

Yes

No

D. Does the diocese honor the principles and spirit of Vatican II? i.e., collaborates with competent and representative laity in policy formation, has implemented the liturgical reforms, works for the common good of society through charity and justice programs.

Yes

No

E. Do competent laity staff most of the diocesan offices and commissions?

Yes

No

F. Is VOTF accepted as a credible voice in the diocese?

i.e. Bishop meets with representatives, replies to correspondence, implements at least some of VOTF's requests.

Yes

No

G. Is VOTF allowed to meet on church property?

Yes

No

Additional comments

Please complete the by September 15. If you would like a printer friendly version of the survey please click [here](#).