

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

I. The Priests' Council of the Diocese of Crookston

Preamble

The Bishop and the priests of the Diocese of Crookston share in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ by their baptism and, in a special way, by their call to Holy Orders. While all members of the Church belong to the one Body of Christ, priests--by their ordination--are called to a unique ministry in the Church. The Bishop and the priests are called to the same purpose: to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to build up the Body of Christ.

According to the norms established in cc. 495-501, The Priest's Council will be a place for mutual, open reflection and fraternal dialogue between the Bishop and the priests of the Diocese of Crookston.

Conscious of our responsibility to the Diocese of Crookston and the communion of the Catholic Church; aware of the bonds of fraternity among all priests of this Diocese, diocesan and religious; seeking to strengthen and promote the bond of unity and affection among all the people of God of this Diocese; mindful of the call of the Second Vatican Council and in basic conformity with the revised Code of Canon Law; we, the Bishop and priests of the Diocese of Crookston, do hereby establish the Priests' Council of the Diocese of Crookston.

Article I: Name

The name of this body shall be "The Priests' Council of the Diocese of Crookston."

Article II: Purposes

- A. The purposes of The Priests' Council, though not exclusively so, shall be the following:
1. To provide a forum for the full and free discussion of all issues of pastoral concern in the Diocese of Crookston.
 2. To aid the Bishop in the governance of the Diocese according to the norm of law, so that the pastoral welfare of the People of God committed to the Bishop with the cooperation of the priests may be carried forward as effectively as possible.
 3. To search for and to propose ways and means for effective pastoral ministry.
 4. To be representative of the unity and diversity of the priests of the Diocese of Crookston.

- B. When the Diocese becomes vacant, The Priests' Council ceases to exist, and the College of Consultors fulfills its functions (c. 501, #2).

Article III: Membership

- A. The membership of this Council shall consist of the Bishop and the Vicar General, *ex-officio*, one member elected from among each of the priest groups of the Diocese of Crookston, and up to five additional members appointed by the Bishop.
- B. Terms of office shall be for five years, with terms of office staggered. The initial terms shall be for periods of two, four, and five years, with all subsequent terms for five years. Elected members are not eligible for consecutive five-year terms.
- C. The method of election shall be determined by the membership of The Priests' Council. The following have the right to vote and can be nominated for election in constituting The Priests' Council:
 - 1. All secular priests incardinated in the Diocese;
 - 2. Both secular priests not incardinated into the Diocese and priest-members of an institute of consecrated life or a society of apostolic life, who live in the Diocese and exercise some office for the good of the Diocese;
 - 3. These priests shall be eligible to vote and be voted for, each in his respective constituency. Disputed cases of eligibility shall be determined by the Priests' council (c. 498).
- D. The vacancy of any elected member from the group he represents (e.g., through death, resignation, transferral to another priests' group) shall be filled by a special election in his constituency for the unexpired portion of the term, unless only one or two meetings of the unexpired term remain.

Article IV: Officers

- A. The Officers of The Priests' Council shall be the President, the Chairperson, the Vice-chairperson, and the Secretary.
- B. The President of the Council shall be the diocesan Bishop. The President shall have the right to call meetings of the Council, to preside over meetings of the Council, to place matters of concern on the agenda of the Council, to accept or to reject (except where otherwise provided by Canon Law) the results of the Council's deliberation, and to promulgate officially decisions arising from them (c. 500).
- C. The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council not presided over by the President, shall be the chief executive officer of the Council, and shall have the duties

prescribed for this office by the parliamentary authority and by such rules as the Council shall adopt.

- D. The Vice-chairperson and the Secretary shall have the duties prescribed for their respective offices by the parliamentary authority and by such standing rules as the Council shall adopt.
- E. The Officers other than the President shall be elected by and from among the members of the Council for a term of one year, and shall serve until their successors are elected. No member shall hold more than one office. In the event of a vacancy in an elected office, the Council shall elect an officer to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

Article V: Meetings

- A. It pertains to the diocesan Bishop to convoke the Priests' Council, to preside over it and to determine its agenda or to receive proposals for the agenda from its members (c. 500, #1).
- B. The Council shall meet at least four (4) times a year, on a schedule to be adopted by the Council. The President may call a special meeting of the Council; so also, with the consent of the Bishop, may the Chairperson or any four members of the Council.
- C. A simple majority of the total members, including a majority of the elected members, shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI: Committees

- A. The Council shall have an Executive Committee and such other standing committees as shall be necessary to carry on the work of the Council.
- B. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and the Vicar General. This Committee shall prepare the agenda for meetings of the Council, and shall coordinate where necessary the work of the other committees. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act in the name of the Council only as specifically authorized by an act of the Council.
- C. Other committees may be created by the Council, and shall have the rights and duties that the Council shall from time to time specify. Their members shall be appointed by the Chairperson and confirmed by the Council.

Article VII: Finances

- A. The operating budget for the Council shall be prepared by the Secretary and approved by the Council. The budget shall then be included in the process for the preparation of the diocesan budget, and ultimately approved by the diocesan Bishop.

- B. The operating budget shall be based on funds to be provided by the Diocese to cover the expenses of the Council.

Article VIII: Amendments

- A. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Council, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting of the Council, and subject to the concurrence of a majority vote of all those eligible to vote in elections for membership on the Council and to the approval of the diocesan Bishop.
- B. This Constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds ballot of the presbyterate of the Diocese and the subsequent approval of the diocesan Bishop, and shall become effective ten days after the date of such approval. The Constitution shall be in effect for two years as a working document; after that, it shall be evaluated and adopted as permanent.

Article IX: By-laws

- A. The Bishop authorizes The Priests' Council to publish its acts.
- B. The Priests' Council is to reach its conclusions not by voting but by prayerful and studious discussion leading to consensus. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Council only when clearly necessary and when they are not inconsistent with Canon Law, this Constitution and any special rules of order which the Council may adopt.
- C. The general election of new members to The Priests' Council is to be held each fall.
- D. The election of the Officers will be held at the first meeting after the general election of new members to The Priests' Council.

Revised October 28, 2009

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VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

Priests Groups
Updated May 2011

Group I

'70 Duane Pribula (P.C. '15)
'71 S.R. AntonySamy
'72 Michael Patnode
'76 Jerry Rogers
'77 John Kleinwachter (A.B. '13-1st)
'80 David Super (Dean)
'80 Richard Lambert (P.C.'12)
'81 Gary LaMoine (P.C. '12)
'82 Pat Sullivan

Group Represented "At Large"

(alphabetical order)
'52 James Bernauer
'83 Timothy Bushy
'66 Roger Grundhaus (P.C. '14)
'61 Joseph Kieselbach
'55 Donald Krebs
'40 Frank Kulhawik
'50 William Mehrkens
'47 Tim Noah
'55 Gerald Noesen (P.C. '12)
'58 Raymond Palcisko
'55 G. Robert Pryor
'98 Luis Silva
'57 Eugene Wesely
'91 Dennis Wieland
'69 Larry Wieseler

Group II

'84 Joe DeCrans (Dean)
'85 Antony Fernando
'86 Don Braukmann (Dean)
'87 Timothy McGee (Dean)
'88 Emmanuel Sylvester (P.C. '16)
'88 Jesu Xavier Ilango (P.C. '14)
'89 Robert Schreiner (P.C. '12)
'89 Michael Foltz (A.B. '13-1st)

Group III

'90 Joseph Richards
'90 David Baumgartner
'90 Larry Delaney (A.B. '15-1st)
'92 Tom Friedl (P.C. '15)
'93 August Gothman
'95 Robert LaPlante
'97 Dwight Hoeberechts, OMI
'98 Vincent Miller
'00 Luis Segundo Buitron

Group IV

'00 Carlos Velez
'01 Bob Stone
'02 Todd Arends
'03 Walter Butor, OMI
'04 John Melkies Suvakeen
'06 Raul Perez (P.C. '16)
'06 Chuck Huck (A.B. '14-1st)
'07 Mario Prada
'08 Bill DeCrans (Dean)
'10 Craig Vasek

(P.C. = Priests' Council) (5 yr. term)
(A.B. = Assignments Board) (4 yr. term
renewable one time)