

Companions on the Journey

May 26, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week I took some time to explain our present parish structure and how we have come to this point in our 133 year history here in Ambler. My intention was to provide some background information to all of you about how we function as a parish and the various roles that parishioners take on in the course of a given year.

In the past we have had elections for membership on the Pastoral Council and that is at least twenty-five years old. However, we started to get some push back from parishioners who did not mind serving on the Pastoral Council but also did not care for being pitted against others in the parish in a voting contest. As a result we have reconsidered the way we are renewing the Pastoral Council.

In the past we would ask for parishioners to nominate others whom they believed would be good representatives of the body of parishioners. We would ask those receiving the most nominations if they would be willing to have their names placed in nomination. If so they would go onto the ballot that we would prepare for our parish vote. Last year and this year we are taking a different approach. Again we are asking for nominations and once we have contacted those nominated to see if they are willing to have their names placed in nomination we will then place all such names in a container and I will pull out several names from among these many. Those so chosen by lot will be added to those on Pastoral Council for a three year term. The Pastoral Council meets five times a year. The meetings are about two hours in length.

However, there is also involvement with the parish Commissions which carry the responsibility of drafting and implementing parish projects, activities and services. The Pastoral Council is an advisory council to the Pastor and a planning group for the direction of the parish and concerns that arise from within the parish which the pastor and staff should be addressing. That will remain but the manner we use to choose parishioners for service will change.

When you see the nomination sheets in the pews this weekend please take the time to think of someone whom you believe would be helpful to me and has a sense of where the parish is. Nominate them and we will take care of the rest. Nominations will be due in in the next two weeks. I am grateful.

In the Peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry