
The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport

Holy Family Parish & Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish
74 Pleasant Street · Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930 · Phone: 978-281-4820

PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM Please provide all necessary information.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER & DISCERNMENT If necessary, please use a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is the nature of your relationship with your nominee (i.e. family, friend, fellow parishioner)?
2. In what ways is your nominee involved in the life of our parish communities?
3. In what ways is your nominee committed to building and strengthening the collaboration between Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish?
4. Are you confident that your nominee can work constructively with our pastor and pastoral team?
If so, why?
5. Overall, why do you think your nominee is well suited to serve on our pastoral council?

See Reverse Side for More Information!

CREATING OUR FIRST PASTORAL COUNCIL

It's hard to believe that it has been nearly three years since Cardinal Sean asked me to serve as pastor of the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, the newly-created collaborative between Holy Family Parish and Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish. As you know, the collaborative model of parish life is the product of an archdiocesan pastoral plan called "Disciples in Mission." This innovative plan called for multiple parishes to remain canonically and financially independent, but served by one pastor, one pastoral team, and one pastoral council. When I became your pastor in June 2014, the success of our collaboration was uncertain. Almost immediately, it became clear that because of the priest shortage, only one priest would be assigned to our parishes on a full-time basis for the foreseeable future. Soon after, it became necessary to evaluate our buildings, finances, programs, worship schedule, and the work of our pastoral team. Some changes went unnoticed. Other changes were more difficult to accept. And although our first months together were sometimes challenging, we have made steady progress toward truly becoming a faith community united in prayer, fellowship, and service.

The measure of our progress is a tribute to the deep faith, dedication, and resilience of our parishioners. Your ongoing prayers, kindness, and generous spirit mean the world to me. In addition, we should thank our pastoral team which has weathered some difficult storms with grace and resolve. We should also thank our parish finance councils for their good advice and ongoing commitment to the long-term financial stability of our parishes. And we should thank our individual parish councils which continued to serve during these early years of our collaborative. Perhaps my deepest regret during these first years as your pastor was not meeting as often as I would have liked with our parish councils. But now, with your advice, counsel, and support, I hope to change that by creating the first pastoral council for the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. Unlike a traditional parish council, whose members focus on the needs of one particular parish, our pastoral council will be called to think beyond the boundaries of "my parish" toward a broader appreciation for what is best for "our parishes." In accordance with archdiocesan guidelines, our pastoral council will meet approximately five times each year; will be comprised of an equal number of members from both parishes; and will also include the pastor, pastoral associates, and permanently assigned deacons. As such, our council will include two members from Holy Family Parish, two members of Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish, two members of our pastoral team, and myself.

During the next six weeks, I ask you to pray about a fellow parishioner whom you believe could make a positive and constructive contribution to our pastoral council and to strengthening the collaboration between our two historic parishes. Your nominee to serve on the pastoral council must be an adult (age 18 and over); a registered parishioner in one of our parishes; a weekly participant in the sacramental life of our parishes; and a person who is committed to the success of our collaborative. In addition, all members of our pastoral council must be able to work in a positive and productive way with me, our fellow parishioners, finance councils, pastoral team, and other members of the council. On the reverse side of this sheet is a nomination form. Please take some time during the coming days to prayerfully consider the name of a parishioner whom you feel should serve on our pastoral council. Because this process marks the creation of our first official pastoral council, we should not think of this as an election. Rather, it is a process of prayer and discernment. In accordance with archdiocesan guidelines, nominations will be reviewed by me and a small committee comprised of members of our finance councils and pastoral team. The strongest nominees will be asked to participate in a brief conversation with me to ensure that they are able to commit themselves to the mission of our council and the work of our parishes.

Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, April 30th. With your help and support, my hope is that our council will meet for the first time in June. If you have any questions after receiving your nomination form, please remember that you are always welcome to contact me. Until then, I beg your prayers for me, for our finance councils and pastoral team, and for all who live, work, and worship in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport. May the Holy Spirit unite us in prayer, fellowship, and service; and help us to live the Gospel, share God's love, and rebuild the Church.

Peace and blessings to all,
Father Jim