

History of the OLS Parish Pastoral Council

Origins

Pastoral Councils were first recommended by Vatican II's "Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops" (1965), with their intended function being "...to investigate and consider matters relating to pastoral activity and to formulate practical conclusions concerning them." At that time, the intention was not directed on a parish level.

In 1973, the Congregation for the Clergy extended "Pastoral Councils" to parishes.

In early 2005, Bishop DiMarzio, head of the Brooklyn Diocese (which includes Brooklyn and Queens), mandated that each parish in the diocese establish a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) to foster full participation of the entire parish in the pastoral life and mission of the parish and of the Universal Church. The PPC would assist the pastor in leading the parish. This had never been attempted, in such a formal way, throughout the diocese.



Development at Our Lady of the Snows

Bishop Raymond Chappetto, then a Monsignor and pastor of Our Lady of the Snows, began the process of identifying twelve members to serve on the Parish Council. This process included selecting ten members from nominations made by fellow parishioners, along with two individuals to be selected by the pastor. Most importantly, members of the Parish Council were to be representative of the parish community as a whole.

In November 2005, twelve members of the parish were selected for the PPC, and began work as a Parish Council on February 13, 2006. Three of the original twelve are still with the PPC.

OLS PPC Accomplishments

In the first year, members of the PPC conducted one-on-one interviews with parishioners, convened a Parish Assembly (which was attended by over two hundred parishioners), and conducted "listening sessions" with parish leaders. These steps were taken to ensure that parishioner input was included in the development of parish planning for the future.

As a result of these efforts, the PPC identified three areas of parish life that needed enhancement and/or creation. This led to the development of a three-year pastoral plan, the creation of parish goals, and formed the basis of the first Parish Pastoral Plan, which was submitted to the Diocese in 2007.

In 2010, after working on and accomplishing much of the 2007 Pastoral Plan, our PPC set out to develop a new three-year pastoral plan and parish goals for OLS. Much of the same process, i.e. parishioner input and advice to identify parish needs, was utilized. After much deliberation, our PPC submitted a new Parish Pastoral Plan to the Diocese in June 2011.

Currently, our Pastor Fr. Kevin McBrien, serving as moderator, is working with the PPC to implement the goals of the 2011 Parish Pastoral Plan.

For more detailed information regarding the history of the PPC and the specific goals of all the Parish Pastoral Plans visit the OLS web page at www.olsnows.org click on the Parish Pastoral Council link on the left.