



## Engaging Disciples Update Parish Pastoral Council

April 17, 2021

A few years ago we embarked on the Engaging Disciple Initiative at Immaculate Heart of Mary. The goal of the initiative is to develop a greater sense of welcome and discipleship within our community of faith and beyond through discussions, brainstorming and ministry and event planning. In many little ways and big ways, directly and indirectly we have moved forward with this initiative. From welcoming each other before mass on Sundays to different opportunities for learning and reflection and continued development of our Faith Formation programs and ministry throughout the parish many have grown into a deeper faith and stronger relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

One of the desired outcomes of this initiative was to reestablish a pastoral council for the parish community. The ministry of a pastoral council is to assist the pastor in forming a pastoral vision for the parish community and forming a strategic plan to implement that vision. Over the past 2 years many of us have attended workshops and webinars to bring this about, and during the last 6 months we have been meeting diligently with some of the members of our Engaging Disciples team. This group has become the Parish Pastoral Council Implementation Team (PPCI).

The goal of this team, which represents a good cross section of our parish, is to recommend potential Pastoral Council members to me based upon our discussions of the needs and demographics of our parish community, to bring us to a starting point for a pastoral council to begin its ministry within our parish community.

While all of the details regarding function and process are still being developed I am happy to inform you that we are almost there. After participating in a Lenten small group discussion process and continued discussion and reflection the PPCI is now developing their list of potential candidates for our Pastoral Council. It is my hope to have this part of the process completed by the end of April and to introduce our Pastoral Council to the parish on Pentecost Sunday. They will then embark on some formation and training exercises over the summer and then begin their ministry in the Fall.

I want to thank the Engaging Disciples team and the Parish Pastoral Council Implementation team for all of their wisdom and lending their time and talent to this process. We ask all of you to continue to pray for the process that will help us continue to grow our wonderful parish community.

Peace,  
Fr. Mike