

## From Your Pastor

### *Renewing Our Parish Pastoral Council ~ Confirming New Members Next Week*

During my first set of listening sessions with you in the fall of 2006, I addressed the issue of our Parish Pastoral Council. As a new pastor, it was necessary for me to re-activate the Pastoral Council. Every pastor needs a vibrant Pastoral Council to advise him.

Given that St. Columbkille Parish embraced the former Our Lady of the Presentation Parish and St. Gabriel Parish – and that there were many people in our newly enlarged parish who did not know one another, I asked for and was given your encouragement to put together a council that would be representative of the many different peoples that make up the Catholic church in Brighton. The men and women who formed this Council have been a great gift to the parish. The good you have seen in the parish these past three years is directly attributable to their love of the parish and to their very wise counsel to your pastor. May God reward them.

In order that the Parish Pastoral Council remain vital, it is important that its membership change regularly. In fact, the Statutes of the Archdiocese for parish pastoral councils require that members may serve for no more than two consecutive three-year terms and that one-third of the council should change annually. In view of our growth together as a parish, it is now time for us to implement fully that statute.

There are 15 seats on our Pastoral Council, one third of which should change annually. Currently, there are 6 vacancies that need to be filled. While we could

fill these positions by means of an election as happens in many parishes, it is difficult to know how we might set up a successful election. We have six different Masses and two language groups who worship at St. Columbkille's every weekend. The fact is, only a few people in the parish are really familiar with the parish as a whole. For this reason, I would like to suggest a process of confirmation rather than election in choosing new members to our Pastoral Council.

Following the advice of the Parish Pastoral Council, in September I established a search committee whose task it was to receive and to identify nominees to the Council. Announcements seeking nominations were placed in the September and October bulletins. The search committee worked very carefully with those who were nominated. They also sought to fulfill two expectations: 1) that each nominee be an active Catholic; and 2) that the nominees complement each other and the current membership of the council.

At the doors of the church this weekend, you will find a flyer that identifies six nominees, including a brief description of each, for a three-year membership on the council. On the reverse side of the flyer are the current members of the council. Next weekend, you will be presented with a ballot, which will ask you to confirm or not confirm these nominees as members of the council. You will also be given the opportunity to indicate your acceptance of this confirmation process.

Below are the nominees to be presented next week.



*Yariela Brandao*



*Dick Marques*



*Alex McNeil*



*Kathy Moore*



*Ramón Palacio*



*Maureen Reen*



God bless each of you.

*Msr. Fay*