

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

NINE CANDIDATES FOR SIX OPEN SEATS

**Phil Bongiorno
Terrence (Terry) Danner
Osvaldo B. DeCoo
Margaret (Maggie) Eves
Michael Chamberlin
Michelle Nicolai
John Hales
Pequitte Schwerin
Mary Ann Tarbell**

- ❖ **Ballots will be available at masses starting on **10/14-15**.**
- ❖ **Elections will be held on **10/21-22**.**
- ❖ **Voters will be asked for their name and church envelope number. (If you give electronically and no longer receive monthly envelopes please contact Chanel Marquis on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning in the Parish Office for your church envelope number).**
- ❖ **If envelope has two names, (e.g. Mr. & Mrs. or Mary and Anne Smith), two ballots may be submitted for a single church envelope number.**
- ❖ **Completed ballots should be placed in the Ballot Box located in the vestibule of the church.**
- ❖ **This information can also be found on the parish website.**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Phil Bongiorno



Years registered at St. Francis: 20 years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: I have served in the Usher ministry, the Men's Cornerstone Retreat planning committee, Saint Francis Sports Board, and various volunteering opportunities including Francis Fest and the Special Olympics basketball game.

Why I want to serve: I feel that I have much to offer the Parish as a member of the Pastoral Council from the gifts with which God has blessed me. In particular, as a servant leader, I believe I have the qualifications that would match well with the requirements to serve as a member of the Pastoral Council.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I currently serve as an association executive for a national nonprofit organization. I have an extensive background and experience in a number of areas in organizational management and development, including strategic planning, budget development/financial management, governance, advocacy and public affairs.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? Considering the evolving demographics in our community, I would look to the Pastoral Council to direct the Parish to further develop ministries and programs to serve these areas including our growing senior population, families with children, especially military families and other areas of growth. In addition, I would look for the Pastoral Council to identify additional opportunities to promote these ministries in the community and leverage assets like Saint Francis School to accomplish this objective.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Michael Chamberlin



Years registered at St. Francis: 5+ years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: Attendee for Christ life, facilitator for Christ life, Men's Cornerstone, Director of Men's Cornerstone, Catholicism Session, Eucharistic Minister

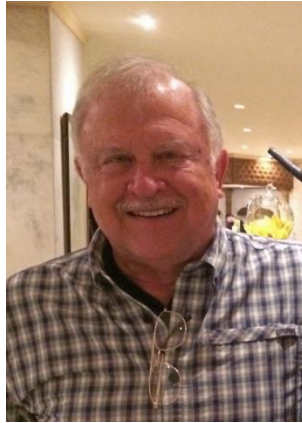
Why I want to serve: I want to help/become a better disciple. I feel as though we are all messengers for the Lord. We need to invigorate the youth/young in our parish.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I bring an open set of eyes, ears and mouth. All the examples above are a yes. The most important thing I bring is directed passion.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? Help bring more people out of the "Fulfillment" of Mass and more into the spreading of God's love to all!

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Terrence (Terry) Danner



Years registered at St. Francis: 29 years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: Pastoral Council (2000-2002); Finance Council (1998-2013); Sister Parish Ministry (2007-present); St. Francis VOICE (2008-present); Eucharistic Minister (2005-present); Usher (1995-2005)

Why I want to serve: I would be grateful to serve to work to ensure our parish continues its tradition of welcoming all, generosity of spirit and giving, vibrant Eucharistic celebrations, meaningful collaboration between the friars and lay parishioners – a true community of God’s people.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): My time in the Navy and as a consultant developed effective organizational and problem solving skills. More importantly, I believe I can effectively “listen” and reflect back/affirm what others are saying in the context of a volunteer organization. I am collaborative and open to new ideas while also bringing to bear experience/lessons that might be useful. Being a member of a Franciscan parish for 29 years has matured and better “formed” my understanding of what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? A member of the council must participate/be engaged in the entire gauntlet of subjects and issues that come before it. A member should not be a “single” interest representative. That said, the Franciscan charism and its emphasis on our less fortunate brothers and sisters has especially opened me to embrace the Catholic Social Justice teaching regarding “the option for the poor” and it is very important to me.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Oswaldo B. De Co



Years registered at St. Francis: 10 years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: Currently in charge of the J.C.D. program; worked with the Spanish community for the last 10 years; VOICE leader for 3 years; member of past Pastoral Council for 4 years.

Why I want to serve: I want to be a bridge between the Spanish community, the pastor, and the English speaking community.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I am an organizer, leader, and motivator. I am a good listener and flexible to new ideas.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? To improve the relations of the community and increase the membership in the church with true disciples of Jesus.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Margaret (Maggie) Eves



Years registered at St. Francis: Family is long time active, and recently registered

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: CYM leader, Stephen Ministry

Why I want to serve: I want to serve on the Pastoral Council to get a younger voice/perspective on the Council so the 20-30 year olds have a voice/so their voice can be heard. I also want to bring people of all different ages together with new outreach programs.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): The gifts that I bring to the Pastoral Council would be listening, getting involved with local communities, encouraging people to join activities. As a Stephen Minister, I spend most of the time listening and asking questions to help that person come to their own decision; instead of giving them the answer. I like to help people get involved within their community through volunteering and setting the example.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? Over the next few years, I would like to see the Pastoral Council focus on new outreach programs; bridging the gap between the ages. Setting up a program that allows the older and younger generations come together to learn and spend time with each other. Another program might be getting the LGBT community more involved in the church; all ages. One way to make that happen might be to get a LGBT person to perform a pulpit talk, to rejuvenate the LGBT meetings.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

John R. Hales



Years registered at St. Francis: over 25

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: Eucharistic Minister

Why I want to serve: To serve where my experiences and talents would add to the vibrancy of the church community, maintain or improve upon the various church ministries and programs, and participate in the current church dynamic to shape the church's future.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): All of these as well as being a team player, assist where time and talent allow.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? Maintaining and growing the family atmosphere and commitment to the church, the church community at large, and one another. Continue the Strength of the school and RE programs for the youth of the church as they grow toward adulthood.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Michelle Nicolai



Years registered at St. Francis: 7-8 years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: Taught 8th grade RE 1 year; Stephen Minister; lay minister of VOICE; delivers food to Francis House once a month; Baptism Prep Committee (no longer an active committee).

Why I want to serve: I've never felt more connected to a parish than St. Francis. I enjoy going to Mass and meeting new people in the church. I feel that my position on the Pastoral Council can be my contribution to helping make St. Francis the amazing parish it is.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I'm organized and work well in a team. When working in teams, I am a good listener and encourage compromise. I enjoy building relationships with others to facilitate working together toward a common goal.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? I think that we need to continue moving forward on the wonderful programs that we currently have. I'm particularly interested in the work done at Francis House and other outreach programs. I'd like to get the message out to busy families that getting more involved in the parish is a worthwhile use of the limited time they have in their schedules.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Pequette Schwerin



Years registered at St. Francis: Since 2010

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: Eucharistic Minister, regular and for homebound; Sacristan for Sunday 9:00 am and often daily Mass; lector at daily Mass; Lector coordinator and trainer; diocesan Cursillo contact; RCIA sponsor of two; VOICE member; advocate for poor and disadvantaged; locally and in Richmond and on Capitol Hill; member of Sister Parish Committee and twice traveler to visit our Peruvian brothers and sisters (2010 and 2012). Not afraid to speak up for the needs of the underserved.

Why I want to serve: Interested in meeting fellow parishioners. Like working with people as a collaborator to establish and accomplish common goals.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I can bring a wealth of experiences; have held a variety of leadership positions in my 25 year Air Force career. Have been an active volunteer my entire life and enjoy working with teams of people. I believe I am a good listener and frequently earn kudos for my facilitator role in the Just Faith program. I am dedicated and responsible when committed to a mission or goal. I have a “can do” attitude and I bring energy and enthusiasm as well as a sense of fair play to the table. I am willing to listen to both sides of an issue and encourage all to respond to others’ opinions so that sessions become fruitful. I have completed Education Parish and Service (EPS) course. My experiences have prepared me well to serve as a Parish Council member.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? For the coming year, would like to see support for youth in our school to obtain higher Catholic education, greater emphasis on developing unity among the diverse cultures of our parish and engagement of all in support of social justice. Also would like more scholarships for parishioners to travel to our sister parishes. Would like to see a parish survey, making parishioners part of the planning process.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Mary Ann Tarbell



Years registered at St. Francis: under a year

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: I have not gotten involved because I am so new to the parish

Why I want to serve: I currently teach English (ESL) at Osbourn High School. I believe that my experience with ESL students and their parents will allow me to serve in a unique way to those parishioners. I would like to share their culture, traditions and special customs with the rest of the parish.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I have the gift of hospitality and would like to share that gift with others. Encouragement, motivating and listening to others will help others with their problems and situational issues. I see God leading my steps daily.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? It would be helpful to see people come to St. Francis as a place of acceptance and love. The pastoral council should work to unite all people to see where they can serve others (discovery of gifts and talents).