

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

ELEVEN (11) CANDIDATES FOR SIX (6) OPEN SEATS

Jean Allen
Alex D'Agostino
Barbara Hammond
Jean Jamrisko
Patricia Lynn Kelly
Norm Litterini
Clarence Neason
Chuck O'Hern
Angelica Salguero
Dan Sullivan
Ulli Vaerst

- ❖ Ballots will be available at masses starting on **10/13-14**.
- ❖ Elections will be held on **10/20-21**.
- ❖ 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 **MUST** be placed in the Ballot Box located in the vestibule of the church **on Oct 20 21**.
- ❖ **Candidate information is displayed in the vestibule and on the parish website.**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Jean Allen



Years registered at St. Francis: 15 years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: For the past 4 years, I have served on the Many Members One Body ministry.

Why I want to serve: I have been Catholic for over 40 years. I attended Catholic Schools for 13 years of my life; I feel the need to have a voice in the church. There is a need, not only, to preserve our teaching and history but to educate new generations. We need to embrace change, deal with adversity and create a better future. Serving on the Pastoral Council will allow me to not only have a voice but also be part of creating a future for the church.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I bring over 40 years of membership, 15 years of professional leadership and development skills. On a daily basis, I work to empower a team that is not only productive but cohesive. This requires listening, evaluating issues, making unbiased decisions, while taking into consideration different views and opinions. These skills will be an asset to the Pastoral Council when making and implementing ideas and decisions to uplift and improve the parish.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? The Catholic Church as a whole needs to focus on retention and strength. We need to assure Catholics that the Church is stronger than ever. We need open conversation, transparency, and reassurance. The church needs to focus on activities to bring the parish together, town hall style meetings to address the issues. The focus needs to be on healing, and rebuilding. We need to ask "Why did I become a Catholic, what brought me to the church? Some of us were born into the faith, some of us were drawn to it, others just found it. Whatever brought you here is still here and we need to focus on this.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Troy A. (Alex) D'Agostino



Years registered at St. Francis: 18

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: I am an active member (3rd Degree) of the Knights of Columbus, Potomac Council #9259 and a new member of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee. During our time with St. Francis, all three of our daughters attended Religious Education to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation, with one daughter that attended pre-school at St. Francis and was an active member of the Catholic Youth Ministry for two years. During that time, we fully supported their activities and participation in Parish events. I assisted my wife when she served as a Catechist, participated in Soup and Stations events, contributed to CYM Youth Missions, and helped with a field trip to the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America.

Why I want to serve: I feel called to serve the Parish and would like to bring the skills and experiences I have through a long career in military service and in industry, as well as the humble perspective of a long-time parishioner, to the service of the Church. I have felt particularly compelled to offer what I can to the Parish to contribute to our community of faith, to advance the many worthy programs available to our parishioners in the Catholic community. I have particular interests in anti-human trafficking and issues of justice for refugees and immigrants.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): Over a 28-year career in military and business leadership positions from which, and from advanced education, I bring leadership and management experiences, with strong functional skills in project management, resource management, organizational design and management, and business development. I also bring an ever-increasing desire to learn and, with humility, contribute to the greater good.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years?

I would like to see the Pastoral Council continue to help our Pastoral leadership build and strengthen the community through good works. I look forward to learning more and finding ways that I can contribute to strengthen the Parish and the St. Francis faith community.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Barbara Hammond



Number of years registered at St. Francis of Assisi Parish: 5. We moved to Virginia 2012 and became a part of St. Francis Parish where we also were an active part of St. Francis School. We moved in 2016 to Satellite Beach, Florida and became part of a Catholic parish there. We just returned to this area and to our St. Francis parish this past summer.

List your experience in any Parish-sponsored program: I've had the opportunity over the last 18 years, to be a part of 7 parishes. At St. Francis parish, I have been a part of the following programs and ministries: Called and Gifted Workshop and discernment process, Bible Study, Parish Retreats, Family Mass Host Family, St. Francis House Volunteer and Marriage Prep Group Facilitator.

At other parishes, I have been a part of the following ministries: Eucharistic Minister, Women's Bible Study, Faith & Fellowship group leader, Christ Renews His Parish (both attendant and later a planner and facilitator of the women's conference).

Why do you want to serve on the Pastoral Council? I believe the church is a living and active body and when we go to our Eucharistic celebration and stand in the presence of God, we should do so as a community and to know we are not alone on our faith journey. I believe the Parish Council can be a vital link to assure the parishioners that their voices are heard and their concerns are both represented and addressed. The Council should work together in collaboration with the Pastor in helping to grow our parish into a vibrant and supportive Catholic Christian church community where people can deepen their faith and reach out to one another and to those outside our Catholic community. I am a proud military spouse which has allowed me the blessings and challenges of always being the "new" person and family. To have to look around at the established community and circles of friends and to know I know no one. Always being in these situations of not knowing, landing in a new community (often with a deployed spouse) has led me to be passionate about making sure people have a sense of belonging within their church community. It is so easy for the path of isolation and sometimes desolation to creep up upon you and cause division. I have an instinct for noticing this and a lot of compassion for making sure people feel encouraged and welcomed. Being married to a spouse that is on active duty has brought me the gift of being able to see many different perspectives and see how many different parishes work.

I would serve on the Council with the intention of serving others in order to continue to build a place where all are welcomed and a place where community, trust, and fellowship are fostered. A place where we continue stand together in order to be both the face and hands of Christ to all we come in contact with. (continued)

Barbara Hammond (continued)

What gifts would you bring to the Pastoral Council? Whenever I am part of a team, I come from the perspective of inclusion. I do my best to make people feel encouraged, feel valued, and help to encourage a spirit of working toward a common goal. I also have the ability to see many perspectives and am not quick to judge nor decide a matter in haste. I use my ability to research and stay neutral on a matter being discussed in order to understand the many perspectives and opinions.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next year? I would start by continually asking the question: How do we continue to provide a place where people can feel supported by our Catholic church on their faith journey and within their daily lives? One way to promote this sense of ongoing community is to have either monthly or quarterly gatherings. Gatherings such as a 'welcome bbq' or 'welcome coffee' whereby new parishioners are invited along with existing members so that they can come together for food, fun, and fellowship. Everyone's lives are busy so we must continually focus on creating an intentional space for fellowship to occur. It is also important to continue having an open dialogue, active participation, and a continued emphasis on communication all of which are vital for the health of the parish. As stated in the Parish Mission Statement tenets, "We come Together", the continued question to ask is, How?

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Jean Jamrisko



Years registered at St. Francis: 32 years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: I have volunteered at Parish events over the years. I am very interested and willing to be of service on the parish council at this time.

Why I want to serve: It is a privilege to have been a member of St. Francis Parish for so many years. I would like the opportunity to serve and “give back” for all the blessings my family and I have received from the parish.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): As a retired teacher, I know how important it is to listen to all individuals (students, parents, colleagues) and work together for the common goals. Also, one of my strengths was always encouraging students to perform at their highest level of potential, which can be a valuable trait in a collaborative effort, like the Parish Council.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? As the world changes and many new issues arise, the parish council should assist the congregation by providing stability and support, reminding them of the foundation and basic principles of our Catholic faith.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Patricia Lynn Kelly



Years registered at St. Francis: 20 years

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: I have done little except teaching at St. Francis School for 7 years and serving as an accompanist for choirs and Mass for many years between 2006-2016.

Why I want to serve: I want to become more involved at St. Francis and repay the parish for the many years it has served me and my family—at least in some small part.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I believe I can provide common sense, practicality and an ability to understand people and to work with them.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? I would like to see us greatly reduce the parish debt.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Norm Litterini



Number of years as a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish: 11

List your experience in any Parish-sponsored program: Altar Server Trainer--took over this summer; Did a few volunteer sessions at the Francis House in 2015

Why do you want to serve on the council? 1. I have a duty to continue my service to God, country, and my fellow man; 2. I want to be part of the solution to the challenges I see; 3. I have the requisite qualifications and experience to contribute to a wide variety of challenges.

What gifts would you bring to the Pastoral Council?

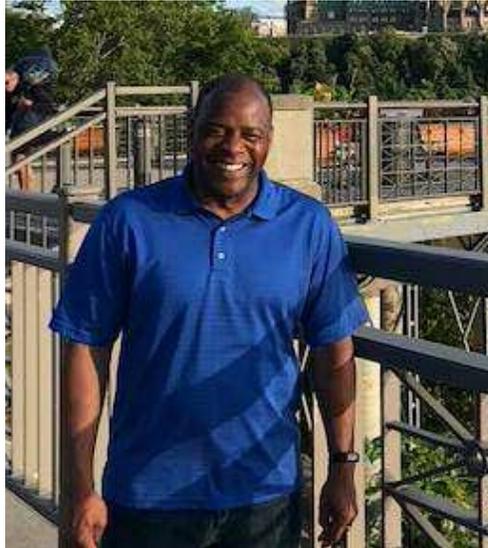
1. Leadership (24 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Colonel)
B.S. United States Military Academy (Business Management and Systems Engineering); M.A. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; M.S. United States Naval War College; M.S. United States National War College
2. Business Experience (Executive-level consultant to PricewaterhouseCoopers). I have done business planning, budgeting, change management, strategic communications throughout my military and civilian careers. I have managed thousands of people around the globe.
3. Crisis Management. I am an expert at managing crises on the battlefield and in the boardroom.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next year?

1. Governance: Institution of unquestionable governance mechanisms which garner full buy-in from the majority of stakeholders in St. Francis. This would include a full-scope review of control and transparency mechanisms.
2. Grass Roots Reform: The unspeakable events of 2002-2018 throughout the church have signaled the need for reform to begin at the grass roots level. Without convincing reform, we will continue to alienate and lose stakeholders.
3. Financial Controls and Transparency: the ongoing scandal begs myriad questions about how funds are used from diocesan to Vatican level.
4. Strategic Communications: we need to be more active and thoughtful in our communications with our parishioners in this time of crisis.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Clarence Neason



Number of years as a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish: 10+

List your experience in any Parish-sponsored program (Religious Education, Outreach, etc.): LEM, Lector, RCIA Team Member and Sponsor, Secular Franciscan Candidate

Why do you want to serve on the Pastoral Council? To continue my Faith journey by being an active learning member of my Faith Community and Parish Council.

What gifts would you bring to the Pastoral Council? Perseverance, Consistency, Dedication, Caring, and Faithfulness – Coupled with a Desire and Effort to Serve.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next year?

Strengthening and Sustaining our Faith Community through participation and growth.....enhancing and assisting in our parish's growth and awareness of its community's needs and desires through thoughtful, purposeful, and engaged service.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Charles O'Hern



Years registered at St. Francis: 8

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: I have been a very active member in the Sister Parish Committee. I have had the opportunity to participate on three mission trips to Peru. Through that venue, I have been able to address the parish directly about those experiences and believe that my participation has made a direct impact on many of those sister parish parishioners. For the past several years I have been part of the Fall Festival set up committee. I'm very aware of the benefits that the St. Stephens Ministry provides and was actively enrolled in that ministry for fourteen months. I am currently a Eucharistic minister for the parish. I have recently attended the diocese Virtus four hour adult training seminar.

Why I want to serve: I have a desire to serve others and being a member of the pastoral council will allow me to particularly achieve that goal. Like father Bill Burns (Archdiocese of Washington) says on his radio commercials that have recently been airing on WTOP. He says something similar to it is not what you get out of mass but what you can give while you are there that makes a difference. I believe it's very important to ensure that St. Francis parish continues to grow and provides a service (whatever that needs to be to the individual parishioner) that is valuable to the individual. This type of thing just does not happen, it needs to be part of a larger plan and I would like to help foster that larger plan.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): I have been an active member of five parishes within the Arlington Dioceses over the past twenty-one years and would bring the good experiences/ideas that those parishes offered to St. Francis. As a retired Marine Officer, I bring a wealth of knowledge to the organization having been an active member in sixteen different parishes over the past 35 years. Knowing that St. Francis has a large number of military families it's important to me that someone on the parish council understands that lifestyle. My participation in the parish organizations has allowed me to gain a perspective that can shared to others. In my current job as a supervisory budget analyst I would bring that talent to the parish council.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? The Catholic Church is currently in a crisis and I believe one of the best ways to work towards solving this crisis is to see lay members of the church take on greater roles within the parishes and dioceses and allow the priests to focus on the spiritual needs of the parish.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Angelica Salguero



Number of years as a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish: 15

List your experience in any Parish-sponsored program (Religious Education, Outreach, etc.): I began working at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in 2014 as the bilingual secretary for the religious education program, and happily continue to be a part of the program. Since 2014, I also work at St. Francis House, an outreach branch of the Parish. Some of my jobs include working in the food pantry, helping serve and cook food for the shelters, teaching ESL and the mommy and me class, and putting my faith into action wherever needed.

Why do you want to serve on the Pastoral Council? I believe that it would give me the opportunity to represent the Hispanic community in the Parish. Also it would improve communication better between the Anglo and Hispanic community as I have helped serve in both.

What gifts would you bring to the Pastoral Council? I believe that my age, my responsibility, and commitment will be of benefit to the council.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next year? I would like to see a bridge between the Anglo and Hispanic community relationships and not just them but all the growing communities in our diverse parish. I also would like to see programs that are available to more than one community in the parish.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Daniel J. Sullivan



Years registered at St. Francis: 15

Experience in Parish ministries/programs: Provide food baskets for Francis House at Christmas time. Provide homeless dinners. Volunteer for Francis Fest, Provide drinks for Parish Picnic, Volunteer for CYM Work Camp, participated in a yard clean-up of a house for new immigrants, volunteer ad hoc usher for several masses where there not enough ushers.

Why I want to serve: I would like to support the continued growth of the Parish. St. Francis is a revelation compared to many of my past parishes. It's about the faith, about outreach, and about making a difference. I would be proud to be a greater part of it.

Gifts I bring (e.g., problem solving, goal setting, volunteering, leading, motivating, listening, encouraging): Previous experience as a retired senior executive. Project management experience, which is useful in planning or executing parish events. Experience and enjoyment of working with people. Good listening skills, which helps connect meaningfully with people. Planning for the future. Experience with the Prince William Area Free Clinic.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next few years? Creating more awareness of St. Francis in the community. This is a growing area, but many newcomers are unaware of the parish. This would be important to grow the parish. Things such as flyers to provide rental and real estate offices. I love the new web page and blog - this is a great step with social media.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Candidates

Ulli Vaerst



Number of years as a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish: approx. 28

List your experience in any Parish-sponsored program: I have served as a catechist for the RE program, on the Green Faith team, the Franciscan Action and Advocacy committee and the Parish Council. I am a Stephen minister, although not active at this time.

Why do you want to serve on the council? I would like to be a representative/voice for the members of the Parish. I often hear about great ideas that I think deserve to be listened to and discussed.

What gifts would you bring to the Pastoral Council? I bring a deep appreciation that each person is blessed and called to act upon their God given charism and to encourage this in others. Through the Called and Gifted program, I learned of my charism in leadership. I am a big picture thinker and I thrive on motivating others to solve problems and to create a better vision of the future. I enjoy working with others to create positive outcomes. I bring a solid leadership foundation and experience with implementation of new programs to existing structures through my professional experience.

As a Secular Franciscan, in formation, I am interested in serving our Parish. We are called to be mindful about (re) building God's church.

What would you like to see as the focus for the Pastoral Council over the next year? I would like to see a focus on Evangelization in terms of Parish outreach as well as a focus on Social Justice issues in our community.