



Archdiocese of Newark
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 16, 2019

My Dear Brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord. Since I began to serve the Archdiocese two years ago, I have appreciated every opportunity to listen to the People of God and offer them a more incisive role and voice in discerning the vision and pastoral priorities of this local Church. In 2017, this concern led me to worship with people in each of the twenty-seven deaneries and lead a “Town Hall” meeting. More recently, I was delighted to establish an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. The Lord Jesus speaks through the people we serve, and this voice is essential as we discern the will of God for the Archdiocese.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) continues this process of discernment at the level of all of our faith communities. In many parishes, the PPC now flourishes as a privileged part of its life. Other parishes look for guidance to ensure that the PPC will help revitalize the essential mission of the faith community.

The archdiocesan central offices want to help you by offering a series of workshops aimed at the training and renewal of Parish Pastoral Councils. I invite you, together with the present members of the PPC, other parish leaders and staff to attend one of these workshops.

The workshops will address some of the following questions:

- What is the role of the Parish Pastoral Council?
- How does it differ from the Finance Council?
- What are best practices in selecting new members and conducting the meetings?
- What are some of the “success stories” in the Archdiocese of Newark?

The workshops will be offered in both English and Spanish. Whether you have a functioning Parish Pastoral Council, or not, I expect that a delegation from each parish of the Archdiocese, will attend one of these workshops. The dates and registration information is at rcan.org/pastoralcouncil. For further information, please contact Father Timothy Graff (rev.Timothy.Graff@rcan.org) or Sister Donna Ciangio, OP (sr.Donna.Ciangio@rcan.org).

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Archdiocesan Center