

Parish Life Collaborator (PLC)

The position was first established in canon law in 1983. The ministry of the PLC enables the diocesan bishop to provide pastoral care for the faithful when a pastor is not available to serve. A simple way of describing it is that a PLC functions as “pastor” of the parish except for presiding at mass and certain sacramental celebrations.

The PLC is entrusted with the pastoral care of a parish. A Canonical Pastor is appointed to oversee this pastoral care. In our case this is Msgr. Marion Makarewicz. He will supervise the pastoral care of the parish and be informed of the needs of the parishioners.

The collaborator ensures the provision of the overall day-to-day pastoral care and administration of a parish. The Canonical Pastor provides sacramental ministry reserved only to a priest.

A PLC oversees everything from the buildings and budget to parish personnel and staffing. The PLC also plans and coordinates liturgical celebrations and oversees the implementation of religious education, sacramental catechesis, pastoral services, administration, and evangelization efforts. The role truly is a collaborative role with everyone working together to be the face of Christ for the communities we serve.

The qualities of a parish life collaborator include: the ability to handle all parish leadership responsibilities; work collaboratively with the Canonical Pastor, parish staff, finance council and parish pastoral council; and be the liaison between the parish and diocesan offices.

Personal competencies and skills of the parish life collaborator include: fidelity to the faith and tradition of the universal church and the local diocesan church; pursue continuing education; good physical and psychological health; and prayerful spirit, maturity, leadership, flexibility, initiative, adaptability and strong interpersonal skills.

The first goal of this position is to make parishioners aware of the impact the declining number of priests is having on pastoral ministry. All of us must pray together that the Holy Spirit will move more young men to consider the selfless, devoted service to the people of God found in the priesthood.