



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles
Office of the Bishop

Prot: 55/01/19

July 23, 2019

Feast of Saint Sharbel, Confessor

Dear Monsignor/Father,

In *The Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO)* it states: “In the parish there are to be appropriate councils dealing with pastoral and economic matters, according to the norms of the particular law of its own autonomous Church.” (c. 295). The Maronite Patriarchal Synod adds: “The aim is to revive pastoral life and to provide opportunities for the sons and daughters of the parish to undertake their mission in a spirit of cooperation in order to activate pastoral work.” (Text 13, #42). These two quotes are from the preamble of our Revised Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines (2019).

The attached document sets forth the vision for a Pastoral Council, its mission, relationships with the pastor, other pastoral and parish organizations and its member qualifications and formation. The revised guidelines have been thoroughly reviewed by the Presbyteral Council over the past two years.

I am pleased to announce and to promulgate the completed Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines for use in our parishes **effective July 23, 2019, the Feast of Saint Sharbel**. They replace previous guidelines. The document should be shared with appropriate members of your current parish pastoral council and others that should be made aware of its contents. I ask that you develop a local time-frame that will allow you and your council members to become more familiar with them and implement them. These parish pastoral guidelines reflect commonly accepted good practice and also reflect my desire to make our parish pastoral councils effective vehicles for consultation, dialogue and collaboration between the lay faithful and the parish administration.

I wish to thank the members of the Presbyteral Council for their advice and counsel, in particular Bishop-elect Peter Karam, who prepared and wrote the document.

Once again, please become familiar with the attached document and share it appropriately in your parish. If you have any specific questions please feel free to contact the Pastoral Center.

With my best wishes and prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles