

SISTERS' COUNCILSisters' CouncilI. Name

Sisters' Council, Diocese of Las Cruces.

II. Purpose

To interact with one another in order to be more effective in planting, nourishing, and cultivating the Word of God among ourselves as well as among people of the diocese.

III. Objectives

- A. To be a forum for communication among women religious and a voice through which they can speak with the Church and the community.
- B. To promote the spiritual, professional, and cultural enrichment of and dialogue among the religious women of the diocese.
- C. To foster cooperation and communication with the bishop of the diocese.
- D. To insure adequate involvement of sisters in the making of diocesan decisions and policies which affect their lives.
- E. To create a greater awareness among the sisters of the needs of the diocese and of the local community; to communicate these needs to the bishop and to collaborate with him in meeting these needs.
- F. To raise the consciousness of sisters in regard to social justice and to assist with the implementation of programs in response to needs.
- G. To encourage dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among religious, priests, and all the people of God.

IV. Membership

- A. Open to all women religious who live in and/or minister in the Diocese of Las Cruces.
- B. The Bishop of Las Cruces is an ex-officio member.

V. Meetings

- A. Ordinarily meetings are three times a year -- in the spring, winter, and fall -- determined annually by the Executive Council.
- B. Any member may call a meeting with the majority approval of the Executive Council.

VI. Leadership

Leadership is by the Executive Council made up of the chairperson, associate chairperson, recorder, and one member elected at large.

Responsibilities: The Executive Council assists in preparing the agenda for general meetings, calls regional meetings when appropriate, and addresses issues that concern the sisters.

The Executive Council will have the responsibility to review the annual diocesan sisters' stipend/salary with the appropriate diocesan officials by the end of January.

A. Chairperson:

Term: The chairperson moves into office after serving one year as associate chairperson. Her term extends for one year.

Responsibilities: The chairperson calls and conducts meetings (general and Executive Council), helps prepare the agenda, serves as liaison with the bishop, and serves as contact person for the total Sisters' Council.

B. Associate Chairperson:

Term: The associate chairperson is elected at the spring meeting. Her term extends for one year at the end of which she assumes the office of chairperson for one year.

Responsibilities: The associate chairperson assists the chairperson and assumes her duties in the case of her absence.

C. Recorder:

Term: The recorder, elected by the membership in the odd-numbered years, serves for two years.

Responsibilities: The recorder takes, prepares, and distributes minutes; prepares and distributes membership lists annually; and assists the chairperson with correspondence/ communication when requested.

D. Member-at-large:

Term: A member-at-large is elected in the even-numbered years to serve on the Executive Council. Her term is for two years. The member-at-large also serves as treasurer of the Sisters' Council and submits a report at each meeting.

VII. Committees

A. Election Committee: At the winter meeting an election committee shall be appointed by the Executive Council for the task

- B. Ad Hoc Committees: Ad Hoc Committees may be formed and dissolved by the Executive Council as needed.

VIII. Particular Provisions

- A. Guidelines become effective when ratified by a majority of members at the review meeting.
- B. Amendments or changes may be proposed to the membership at any scheduled meeting. They become effective when ratified by a majority of members present at the meeting.

Suggested Guidelines for Elections

1. At least two months before the date of the general meetings, at which the election is to take place, the election committee solicits from the membership the names of nominees.
2. The committee will verify the willingness of the nominees to serve before preparing the slate.
3. Voting will take place at the spring meeting. Nominations from the floor will be in order.
4. The sister receiving the highest number of votes is elected. If the slate is too large, the members may decide to vote on the two or three having the highest number of votes after one balloting.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Sisters' Council Account Number at the Diocese is 257.

Guidelines established February 4, 1988.

Revised August 27, 1994.

Approved with minor revisions January 28, 1995.