

APOSTOLI NOVI, Saint Joseph Parish BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE PHILOSOPHY

As believers in Jesus Christ, Apostoli Novi shall in all respects try to work together in a Catholic, Christian atmosphere, seeking to maintain unity and friendship toward others for the betterment and success of Youth Ministry at Saint Joseph Church, Mechanicsburg. The council should reflect all that is good in youth, so as to be an example for others. Apostoli Novi shall also strive to be a working example of the ideals of Youth Ministry set forth in the document, "Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry." This Council is established firmly on the principle that Youth Ministry is to, with, by, and for young people. The Council is a ministry involving openness to the will for God and willingness to grow in faith. Both youth and adults are enriched by this bond in such a way that the Council's witness to the risen Christ vitalizes the parish community of Saint Joseph.

PURPOSE

It is important for young people to see themselves as a valuable part of both the parish and larger church ministry. The purpose of Apostoli Novi will be:

- 1) to encourage the involvement of young people in the life of our faith community
- 2) to carry out the planning, implementation and evaluation of the designed program.
- 3) to provide a means of communication between the youth of the parish and the Youth Office and vice versa.

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

As this Council is comprised of representatives of Saint Joseph parish, all members of the Council are leaders among the young people of our community and are expected to live their Catholic faith with integrity and enthusiasm.

GOALS

The goals of Apostoli Novi will be to:

- 1) Empower young people of our parish to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today;
- 2) Foster the personal and spiritual growth of Saint Joseph Youth;
- 3) Support the growth in total or comprehensive Youth Ministry within the context of Saint Joseph Parish;
- 4) Involve young people in the life, mission and work of the Saint Joseph faith community through parish, deanery, and diocesan activities.

OBJECTIVES

Apostoli Novi is comprised of individuals whose personal and spiritual growth should be enhanced by their involvement in the Council. An important element of this growth is the development of leadership qualities. The Council members, therefore, should participate in a leadership training experience and a retreat experience at the beginning of each Council's term.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND AFFILIATION

Section 1) The name of the organization shall be "Apostoli Novi.

Section 2) The Council is an advisory body responsible to the Youth Minister at Saint Joseph Parish, Mechanicsburg.

ARTICLE II

STRUCTURE

Section 1) Membership

The Council shall be comprised of twelve members, consisting of the youth representatives to the Diocesan Youth Council, the youth representatives to pastoral council, as well as 2 high school freshmen, 2 high school sophomores, 2 high school juniors and 2 high school seniors. Adults from the parish will also be represented as advisories to the Council. The Youth Minister and/or other members of Pastoral staff will act as ex officio members of the Council.

Section 2) Qualifications

Individuals will be considered for the Council upon nomination from the people of the parish. In order for one to be a member of the council, parish leaders will review nominations and choose based on an active commitment to our faith and leadership abilities.

Section 3) Representation

Endeavoring to share our gifts and daring to live the Gospel message, the cross section of students that comprise Apostoli Novi shall be diverse. There shall be two youth from each grade, in addition to the youth representatives to Saint Joseph Pastoral Council and our parish representatives to the Diocesan Youth Council. The youth will represent local public schools and Trinity High School. Each youth member of the Council will have one vote in Council business.

Section 4) Meetings

It is expected that all members be present at each synod meeting. Any members missing two meetings without an excuse will be subject to review by the Youth Minister, Pastoral Staff, and Advisories to determine continuance on the Council, or other action as deemed appropriate. Any Council member who knowingly will be absent from any Council meeting must notify the Youth Minister prior to the meeting. Members are also asked to participate in Youth Ministry programs and activities when possible.

Section 5) Responsibilities

Members will:

- 1) Act as a center of information on Youth Ministry activities and matters of interest to youth in Saint Joseph Parish;
- 2) Communicate information between the parish youth and the Youth Minister/Youth Ministry office and vice versa;
- 3) Assist in the evaluation, planning and implementation of the offerings sponsored by Youth Ministry. The primary role of the adult representatives is to support and assist the youth with the operation of the Council.

Section 6) Officers

Officers of Apostoli Novi will be selected from the youth members of the Council. The Youth Minister will act as an advisor to the officers. Officers will consist of a chair, a vice-chair and a recording secretary.

Section 7) Responsibilities of Officers

The chair of the Council is responsible for input on the preparation of Council meeting agenda in collaboration with the Youth Ministry Director. The chair will facilitate the Council meetings. The vice-chair will be responsible to run the meetings in the absence of the chair and assume the chairmanship should the chair vacate his/her position. The secretary will be responsible for keeping minutes at each of the meetings and sending the minutes to the Youth Minister in a timely fashion.

Section 8) Term of Office

The term of office for each officer will be one year with a second year possible. The term will begin immediately following the discernment of officers and will run until the following discernment of officers. In the event an officer vacates Apostoli Novi or his/her position on the Council, the position will be replaced by appointment of the Youth Minister.

Section 9) Election of Officers

Officers will be discerned through a process to take place prior to the beginning of each new term. Officers will be voted on by members of Apostoli Novi. In the event of a tie breaker, the Youth Minister will cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE III PROCEDURAL NORMS

Section 1)

Unless otherwise stated and approved by majority vote of the Council, the procedural norms dictated by the norms of respect and decorum expected of a member of Apostoli Novi.

ARTICLE IV NORMS OF CONDUCT

Each member of Apostoli Novi is a leader among the young people of our faith community and is expected to embody core gospel values, which are the root of our Catholic Christian identity.

Section 1) Love of God, Love of Self, Love of Others

Love of God

Matthew 22:34 tells us to "Love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart and soul." As such, each member of Apostoli Novi is encouraged to enthusiastically practice our Catholic Faith in their daily lives through words, thoughts, prayer, and actions.

Love of Self

Proverbs 4:23-27 tells us "With closest custody, guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life...Survey the path for your feet and let all your ways be pure."

As such, each member of Apostoli Novi is expected to be honest, dependable, respectful, perseverant, pro-active, open, and committed.

Love of Others

Matthew 7:12 tells us to “Do unto others whatever you would have them do unto you”. As such, each member of Apostoli Novi is expected to respect the dignity and privacy of others, accept and recognize the uniqueness and differences of others, and be willing to work towards the common good.

Section 2) Dismissal

In the event that a member of Apostoli Novi is not actively pursuing the norms of conduct, the Youth Minister, Pastoral Staff, and Advisories will discuss a course of action. It is the discretion of the adult leaders to ask a member to vacate their position, at which time the vacant chair will be replaced by the appointment of the Youth Minister.

ARTICLE V

REVISION OF BY-LAWS

- 1) These By-Laws shall be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members of the Council.
- 2) A quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of the Council.
- 3) Notice of proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Youth Ministry Office not less than 30 days prior to the meeting of the Council. Written notice of proposed amendments shall be distributed to the Council not less than 15 days prior to the Council meeting.
- 4) These By-Laws will be subject to complete review the Youth Ministry Office and the Council once every four years to ascertain their continued appropriateness.

ARTICLE V

AUTHORITY

SECTION 1) The Youth Minister will act as final power on decisions and issues related to the Council and recommendations made by the Council.

Erin R. Hughes, Youth Minister
Saint Joseph Parish

Date