



**OFFICE  
OF THE  
BISHOP**

**DIOCESE OF FARGO**

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November 30, 2006

Dear Father,

Through the years, the Church on all levels has broadened its understanding of the need to gather our collective wisdom and share responsibility for the life and growth of the parish. Canon Law provides for this collective wisdom through consultative bodies in the parish; with this in mind, I present to you the enclosed Parish Finance Council Charter.

Canon Law specifically places the responsibility for administration of parish goods with the Pastor (Canon 532) and requires that each parish have a finance council to help the Pastor with this administrative responsibility (Canon 537). Full compliance with Canon Law requires that the Parish Finance Council be actively engaged in a consultative capacity with the Pastor regarding parish and parish-related financial matters. The attached Charter is intended to provide a structure for the establishment and operation of a Parish Finance Council.

I recognize that many parishes already have a finance council that actively supports the Pastor in the execution of his administrative responsibilities. In such cases, this Charter should be used to guide the work of the council beginning in 2007.. My intent is to have a common approach in all of our parishes, which will be a significant aid to all priests in their current capacity as pastors and in future assignments.

In addition to the Charter, you will also find enclosed several examples/models for an annual calendar of finance council meetings, a meeting agenda, and a sample appointment letter for finance council members. These are simply intended to be aids for you to use.

I am proud and grateful to God for the great generosity of our people in supporting our parishes, schools and diocesan ministries. I am thankful for the expertise and professional skills, which our parishioners have contributed while serving on Parish Finance Councils. I hope this Charter will enhance the use of their gifts and bring about greater effectiveness in using our resources to build and strengthen our parish communities. As outlined in the enclosed decree I ask that this Charter be implemented at each parish with an effective date of January 1, 2007. Attendance at the Parish Leadership Workshops by you and, at a minimum, the Chairperson and Secretary of each Parish Finance Council will assist you with implementation and understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation on these matters. May our Lord continue to bless you in pastoral ministry.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila  
Bishop of Fargo

Enclosure

SJA/def