

EXAMINATION OF TALENTS

“Help us to be conscientious in our work so that we may give as fully as we have received. May we labor in a spirit of thankfulness and joy ever mindful of all the gifts we have received from God that enable us to perform our tasks. Permit us to work in peace, patience and moderation, keeping in mind the account we must one day give of time lost, talents unused, good omitted and vanity of success, so fatal to His works. May our labors be all for Jesus, all through Mary our Mother, and after the holy example of St. Joseph, Amen.”

The following is provided as a guide to make sound decisions about your potential candidacy for membership in a St. Patricia Board. Though all are called to share in the ministry, not all are called to do so in the same manner.

Please consider the following:

- Am I reasonably comfortable in a group?
- Am I able to express myself with a reasonable amount of clarity in a group situation?
- Am I able to listen with openness and sensitivity?
- Am I able to change my preconceived ideas after listening to discussions and the ideas of other people?
- Am I able to keep matters in confidence?
- Can I accept the possibility that others may be better informed on a given issue?
- Can I uphold the final decision of the Board even though I personally do not agree with the outcome?
- Do I believe in the value of the Catholic education as we have in our Parish today?
- Would I be willing to accept training, both spiritually and professionally to assist me in my efforts to be a Board member?

If you answered “yes” to all of these, you should definitely consider seeking membership in one of the St. Patricia boards. If you answered “no” to any of these questions, you should realize that there are other ways to serve our parish.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

“Those seeking membership on a board realize they are genuinely concerned about contributing to the ministry of Catholic education. Their agenda is the board’s agenda; their goals are the same as the board’s goals; their open manner allows them to listen to the needs of the school; they set aside their own opinions in order to listen to the membership. They are not hesitant; they speak up in respectful and sincere ways.”

ELECTION PROCESS ¹

1. Election Committee chair assembles the Election Committee in February – committee consists of only board members who are not seeking re-election
2. Announce election date(s) and application submission deadline in the February parish bulletin and school newsletter. Elections are held in the church after all weekend masses in late April in coordination with the other parish/school organization elections
3. Prospective candidates inform Election Committee of their candidacy. Prospective candidates shall be self-nominated
4. Election Committee provides prospective candidates with an application and information packet
5. Prospective candidates are encouraged to attend the March board meeting
6. Each prospective candidate submits a resume of qualifications (i.e. the application) to the Election Committee
7. Election Committee chair forwards qualified resumes to the pastor and principal for review and feedback
8. The pastor and principal review the prospective candidate’s qualifications and submit recommendations to the Election Committee – at which time the prospective candidates become official candidates
9. Candidate resumes are published in the parish bulletin at least one (1) week prior to the election date(s)
10. Elections are held by secret ballot. All registered parishioners 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote
11. Results are announced to the candidates and published in the parish bulletin as soon as possible
12. Election Committee reviews and evaluates the election procedures and process and makes recommendations for improvement

Newly elected members may attend the next board meeting after a valid election, but do not have voting rights until they are installed by the pastor in June

¹ Where applicable, if the number of persons who have filed an application for the open board positions does not exceed the number of declared vacancies pursuant to Membership Section of the Bylaws, and these applicants are the sole candidates for those particular Board positions, then the Board may, on its own motion or pursuant to the candidates’ motion (hereinafter, the candidates’ “sole candidacy application”), declare these people the winners of this Board election. The candidates’ sole candidacy petition shall:

- a) State they are the sole candidates for the Board Membership positions in question, and
- b) Contain the affidavits of five (5) persons who are eligible to vote in this Board election under Membership Section of the Bylaws stating that they are eligible and would vote for him or her

The candidates’ sole candidacy petition shall be filed with the pastor or principal at the school’s main office, and may be filed on or after the first Monday in April. If the Board finds such to be the case and declares such persons to be the winners of the membership election in question, then the Board shall terminate the remainder of the elections process to fill these Board positions.