

## **STATUTES OF THE DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL IN THE DIOCESE OF BARODA**

### **PREAMBLE**

A Synodal Church is a participative Church and is founded on two basic principles: the principle of collegiality and the principle of subsidiarity. This requires listening to and discerning with everyone at every level in the process of decision making. In order to realise this principle at the Deanery level, a Deanery Pastoral Council is to be established in every Deanery.

### **Article I**

#### **NAME**

- 1 This Council is called Deanery Pastoral Council.

### **Article II**

#### **CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTION**

2. The Deanery Pastoral Council is legally constituted by a Decree of the Diocesan Bishop on presentation of the names of the members by the Dean.
  - 2.1 The Deanery Pastoral Council is a Deanery structure that acts as a significant form of collaborative dialogue and discernment within the diocese. The Deanery Pastoral Council shall:
    - 2.1.1 Reflect on how to enable all faithful to witness and proclaim the Kingdom of God.
    - 2.1.2 Study matters that concern the pastoral works of the diocese at the Deanery level according to the Deanery Pastoral plan
    - 2.1.3 Support the work of the Deanery Pastoral Commissions as established by the Diocesan Bishop
    - 2.1.4 Foster collaboration between Clergy, religious and laity
    - 2.1.5 To formulate practical ways to implement the goals and decrees of the Diocese
    - 2.1.6 To foster Christian family life
    - 2.1.7 To promote dialogue and harmony and build relationships with other Christians and non-Christians in the struggle for justice, peace and reconciliation
    - 2.1.8 To appoint committees for implementation at the Deanery level

### **Article III**

#### **COMPETENCE**

3. The Deanery Pastoral Council is a **consultative** body and not a decision making body.

**Article IV**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

4. The Deanery Pastoral Council shall consist of Ex- officio members, elected members and Nominated members. At least half of the total number of membership should shall be lay persons.

4.1. The Ex officio members shall be as follow:

a. Clerics

- i. Dean
- ii. All Parish Priests in the Deanery

b. Religious

- i. Deanery President of the Conference of Religious India
- ii. Superiors of Men and Women Religious houses in the Deanery

c. Officials

- i. Heads of all Catholic Institutions in the Deanery

d. Laity

Vice President of all PPCs in the Deanery  
Representative of Laity Commission  
Representative of the Youth Commission  
Representative of the Family Commission  
Representative of the Women's Commission  
Representative of the Catechetical Commission  
Representative of the Social Work Commission  
Representative of the Basic Christian Commission  
Deanery Presidents of Lay Movements and groupings recognised by the Church.

4.2. Elected Members

Two members (one man and one woman) of every Parish Pastoral Council in the Deanery, elected by each PPC.

4.3 Qualification for Membership

a. The nominated Lay Members:

- i. Should be residing in the diocese for more than three years.
- ii. Should be in full communion with the Catholic Church (cf. Can. 512 §1)
- iii. Should be above 18 years of age and has received the sacrament of confirmation.

b. The elected and nominated Members of Religious Institutes or Societies of Apostolic Life:

- i. Should be finally professed and be working at least a year in the diocese and should be actively participating at the parish or Deanery level.
- ii. Should have at least the working knowledge of Gujarati so that he/she could take active participation in the meeting.
- iii. A religious cleric who is not a parish priest and not working for any Deanery commission. He should not have dual representation in this Council.

#### 4.4 Term of Office

- i. The term of the Deanery Pastoral Council shall be three years from the date on which it is constituted. However, it is automatically extended until a new Council is constituted.
- ii. The term of membership of the nominated and the elected members shall be three years. A person can be a member of the DPC only for two consecutive terms. After a break of one term (three years) one is eligible to be a member again.
- iii. The ex-officio members continue in the Council as long as they hold the office.

#### 4.5 Loss of Membership

A member will lose his/her membership by expiry of the term, resignation, any suspension imposed by the bishop for grave a reason or for absence in three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause approved by the Dean.

4.6 A vacancy in membership should be filled within a month following the same process through which the vacated member became a member. Such member shall hold membership for the rest of the term of the member he or she replaces.

### Article V

#### OFFICE BEARERS

- 5.1 The Dean of the deanery shall be president of the Deanery Pastoral Council by virtue of his office as Dean.
- 5.2 The vice president, a Joint vice president and the Secretary and a Joint Secretary shall be elected by secret ballot. They shall not be clerics.
- 5.3 The Vice president shall be the Moderator of the Deanery Pastoral Council. In his absence the additional Vice President will moderate the session.

### Article VI

#### DUTY OF THE MEMBERS

- 6.1 The President: It is the prerogative of the President the Deanery Pastoral Council to convene through the secretary a meeting of the Council and personally to preside over it. He alone has the right to make public the matters dealt in the Council.
- 6.2 The Vice President: The Vice President is the Moderator of the Deanery Pastoral Council. In his absence, the Joint vice president shall moderate the sessions.
- 6.3 The Secretary: It is the Secretary who convenes the meetings of the Council according to the direction of the President and following these statutes. The secretary's responsibilities include keeping all the correspondence, maintaining all documents, preparing the reports of the meetings and to do any other work assigned by the president.
- 6.4 The Ordinary Members: It is the duty of all members to attend all the meetings of the Council and actively participate in the discussions and assist the council to deliberate matters and make discernment and thus assist the Dean in fulfilling his office.

## **Article VII**

### **MEETINGS**

- 7.1. The Deanery Pastoral Council is to be convened at least once a year.
- 7.2. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the President whenever he deems it necessary or on requisition made by not less than one- third of the total members of the Pastoral Council.
- 7.3. The secretary should call for the topics for consideration in the meetings and prepare the agenda in consultation with the President and the Moderator. It should be sent to the members at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- 7.3. The quorum required for the valid conduct of the meeting is half plus one of the total membership. If the quorum for the meeting is not present, then the meeting may be adjourned for 15 minutes and then then the meeting may be reconvened if at least one third of the total members are present, considering it as the quorum.
- 7.3. It is the prerogative of the Dean to approve and also to make public the deliberations and the recommendations arrived at the Council.

## **Article VIII**

### **EXTINCTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- 8.1 The Deanery Pastoral Council expires on the completion of its term and the institution of a new DPC The Bishop may dissolve the Council for grave reason and may institute a new Deanery Pastoral Council.

## **Article IX**

### **AMENDMENTS**

- 9.1 Any amendment in these statutes may be done by the Diocesan bishop when and where it is necessary, after consulting the existing Pastoral Council.
- 9.2 These statutes cannot be amended for five years from the date of its promulgation.

### **EPISCOPAL DECREE OF APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION**

In order to determine adequately the competence and functions of the Deanery Pastoral Council constituted to collaborate with the bishop in his mission of building up of the local Church; having heard the suggestions of the Priest's Council and College of Consultors in accordance with can. 513, § 1 of the *CIC*; I hereby approve and promulgate the above *Statutes of the Deanery Pastoral Council* of the diocese of Baroda. These statutes come into effect from the very day of its promulgation and will remain in force until revoked by the Bishop of Baroda, everything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Diocesan Curia, Bishop's House, Vadodara on Monday the twenty fourth day of – June, the Feast of St John the Baptist in the year of the Lord 2024.

Bishop Sebastião Mascarinhas, sfx  
Bishop of Baroda