





## What Can I Do? Lay Leadership in Church at the Diocesan Level


*“Now the body is not a single part, but many.... But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:14, 20)*


As was described in a previous Educational Document, *“What’s the Local Church?”* the diocese is the basic unit of the Church; it is our Church. Just as the parish needs and relies on the talents and gifts of parishioners to best serve the needs of those around it, so too does the Diocese rely on the talents and gifts of the people of the Diocese to serve the needs of the whole community. Baptism calls us to participate in the mission of the whole Church as active agents in building God’s kingdom on earth.


Listed below are some groups of lay people who have a leadership role at the Diocesan level. It should be noted that the overwhelming majority of those who work in Diocesan Offices and Catholic Charities are lay women and men. Most of the groups listed below are led by and staffed by lay people as well. (You may notice that some of these groups are very similar to some of those at your parish.)


 **Diocesan Pastoral Council** – Represents the people of the Diocese of Cleveland, providing consultation to the Bishop in areas of pastoral concern. A representative from each of our thirteen Districts is chosen from the Parish Pastoral Council Leaders from that District. Additional members represent priests, religious sisters and brothers, deacons, certified lay ecclesial ministers, youth and young adults, and different cultural groups. They serve a two-year term.


 **Diocesan Finance Council** – Required by Canon Law and appointed by the Bishop, this body is composed of at least three persons (may be a combination of clergy and laity) who are experts in financial affairs and civil law and who provide consultation to the Bishop in areas of financial and legal concern. Eleven members serve on this council in our diocese.

 **Catholic Charities System Boards of Directors** – Multiple opportunities exist within the areas of service delivery, facilities management and fundraising throughout the 8 counties of our Diocese. In addition there are volunteer and board opportunities within the broad variety of specific program areas. These provide leadership to the Catholic Charities system through a commitment to its mission, vision and programs serving children and families, older adults, persons with disabilities and emergency assistance services.

 **Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation Board** – This board coordinates fund raising, grant making, and the management of assets to foster philanthropy and advance the priorities in the Diocese.

 **Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation Associate Board** – This group is comprised of emerging leaders who raise funds, make grants, volunteer and assist the Diocese of Cleveland and the community at large. New members join the Board each February.

 **The Catholic Charities Parish Volunteers** – Assist in the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal in their parishes, and provide help to educate the parishioners about the work of Catholic Charities programs. Volunteers are always welcome and join through the Foundation Office, 216-696-6525 X 1049.

 **Youth and Young Adult Ministry Diocesan Volunteers** – Sponsored by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and CYO Office, a variety of programs are offered for youth and for young adults in their 20s and 30s. Help is always needed to organize and plan events. Interested volunteers call the office at 216-334-1261 x 16 or connect through the web page at [www.clevelandcyo.org](http://www.clevelandcyo.org)

 **Many other boards, advisory groups and volunteers support other diocesan offices and institutions.**

### Going Deeper:

1. Why is it important to have lay involvement at the diocesan level?
2. Are there other ways you could imagine laity being involved that are not listed here?