

A COUNCIL MEMBER'S *Code of Ethics*

The Council Member's *Code of Ethics* delineates the expectations inherent in the purpose of the council. Members, by accepting the position to serve on the local school council, ascribe to this code. Periodic review of the code reminds members that they are working together for the common goal: to promote the mission and purpose of Catholic education.

The Code of Ethics addresses the following: commitment to mission, confidentiality, objectivity, justice, fairness, conflict of interest and maintenance of unity.

As a member of a Catholic School Council, I...

- ❖ Acknowledge that schools are a significant expression of the teaching Mission of the Catholic Church and function within its structure;
- ❖ Will become more knowledgeable about the mission of Catholic education, as expressed in this school, and sincerely promote it to the various publics with whom I have influence;
- ❖ Recognize the need for continuing education about my responsibilities and know that I do not represent the council officially unless explicitly authorized to do so;
- ❖ Will be fully and carefully prepared for each meeting by doing the required reading and completing necessary tasks for committee work and reports;
- ❖ Support the principal in authorized functions and avoid intruding in administrative details unless requested to do so;
- ❖ Will be loyal to council decisions even though personally opposed to the final recommendations and decisions;
- ❖ Will be alert to alternate solutions to problems by keeping an open mind;
- ❖ Will avoid situations that present actual, perceived or potential conflict between my own interest and interest of the school;
- ❖ Will disqualify myself from discussion and vote on an issue where there is a conflict of interest with my family or business interests or if the outcome will grant me any pecuniary;
- ❖ Will be responsible to keep matters discussed in executive/closed sessions in confidence. Official information/business discussed in such sessions cannot be shared with non-council members, even one's spouse;
- ❖ Will identify and manage my own personal biases because it is important for me to see situations from multiple points of view rather than solely from my own perceptions, assumptions and feelings; and
- ❖ Pray often for other members of the council, this Catholic school, and the community it serves.