

## **CORE 11/30/09 Meeting Summary**

First on the agenda was a discussion about the CORE Statement of Purpose. George Cioe gave a brief overview with specific attention to how the process works. Here is a brief outline:

1. Ideas conceived at CORE meetings will be developed into action steps by the assigned CORE Group. With this in mind, the captain of the particular idea/response will coordinate the formulation of a plan of action steps for recommendation to the parish council. Ideally, the plan would be submitted before the council meeting and be included as an agenda item. The captain would present the plan to the council in person.
2. The parish council will review the plan and respond to the captain. The idea is to maximize results with appropriate support, or qualified support, or perhaps ask the captain to address council concerns. Discussion of resources, funding, use of existing committees and staff, as well as elimination of conflict and redundancy will be obvious discussion points for the council.
3. Once a plan is approved by the parish council the captain can proceed to execute and provide feedback to the council. In some instances, others may be responsible for the execution of the plan.

Then the discussion moved to the responses. Mary Freeman explained that the responses were first matched up with a specific measurement of the parish survey then grouped to maximize synergy. Once grouped, they were assigned to one of four CORE Committees.

Next was a breakout session where each of the groups discussed the issues assigned to them. At this meeting we had enough people for three groups (20 people). They were asked to do the following:

1. Select a specific issue – Let's focus on the "low hanging fruit" the issues most easily addressed, so we can build some momentum and excitement about new ideas
2. Describe what success will look like
3. Recommended action steps
4. Who will be the captain?
5. What will be done for the next meeting?

As you read the committee reports keep in mind that each and every idea/action step needs a captain. Here are the issues selected as the priorities by each group:

### Ownership Committee

#### **SURVEY RESULT:**

17% strongly agree “my Opinions Count” [converse: 83% of parishioners do not strongly agree that their opinions count]

#### Previous Meeting Suggestions:

- [-tonight’s comments]
- continue outreach for people who could not make this meeting;  
[- no recommendations tonight]
- Parish Council agenda in the bulletin with clear reminder that they are open;  
EASY [- current references to the “Annual Open Parish Meeting” implies that all others are not; current structures may be fine, but communication to parishioners needs to improve; use website and email more (recent efforts at using email are appreciated);]  
[- set aside start of every parish council meeting for open forum, ideas, complaints, read from suggestion box; follow up on ideas, positive or negative, let parishioners know decision and reasons]  
[- consider scheduling meetings to make it more convenient for parishioners to attend (after 9:15a.m.?)]  
[- meeting minutes published; attached to bulletin? on website? By email?]
- transparence needs to be more obvious, especially to explain why choices are acted upon or not - see above
- Good thing to solicit opinions but are the opinions being acted upon. If an idea is not acted upon, we need a better explanation as to why not.
- see above
- Suggestion box at doors  
[- post suggestions, and responses/actions, at all doors/website]

#### Additional Suggestions made tonight on this survey topic:

- [- put a youth representative on the Parish Council]

#### **SURVEY RESULT:**

18% strongly agree that someone at CTK recognized their efforts for the parish in the prior month [converse: 82% do not strongly agree]

- Greeters are greeting each other rather than churchgoers  
[-disagree with this comment;]  
[- consider changing greeter assignments (same door, same Mass, all the time - could promote familiarity between greeter and newer parishioners)]
- Parishioners not always responsive to greeter’s welcome  
[this is not action suggestion]
- (Put) Mission statement and pictures of the various committees on the website.  
[-bulletin (print and web) already carries mission statement;]  
EASY [-place bulletin boards / poster boards at all entrances and hall with pictures of staff, council, committee members, stewards]
- Name tags for greeters  
EASY [-greeters have tags now, but not well-liked even by greeters; redesign;  
See also schedule comment above]

-Post pictures in the Mustard Seed and on the website of new members, baptism, death, etc.  
EASY [this is a good idea! pictures will connect face to names that might not be known]  
[-do more, but shorter, profiles of stewards, with pictures]

## **OTHER “OWNERSHIP” TOPIC: OUTREACH**

The parish undertook the Gallup survey in response to a noticed decrease in church attendance. The survey was mostly completed in the pew prior to liturgy (it was also available on the parish website). Therefore, it cannot include information from those who do not attend regularly, or have chosen to leave the parish or the Church.

To the extent that we can reach out to former parishioners (this would be a sensitive task), it would be valuable for the parish to learn where we “failed” to welcome, engage, nourish, etc. The effort would also be an opportunity to improve our parish, and to re-engage those contacted.

Captain: Mike Marran

## **Responsibility Committee**

It was suggested that we have Parish Mentors for new families. These members of the parish would answer questions about the parish and attend the same liturgy for awhile. It was suggested that we try to match families.

Change bulletin announcement inviting all to coffee and donuts. (not just clean-up) Possibly hand out the munchkins to the children to avoid running out.

Set up a table in the hall....kind of like a help desk--maybe once a month.

Put the mission statement with the pictures of the council and committees at all doors.

Have Committee meetings after 9:15 liturgy - All committees required to have 1 meeting per year at this time.

For the next meeting:

What is done now for new parishioners? Find out from Beth and / or Christine.

Bill & Eddie DeCesare captains

## **Care Committee**

Issues: 1) Youth Ministry

- Have a follow up to Confirmation and RCIA
- Advocacy group from URI to work with youth

2) Cornerstone Program (Parish Retreat) offered for 30+ age

- Ann Shaw captain of Cornerstone Program only

The next CORE meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2010. You will receive confirmation by email and it will be posted in the bulletin.