



An Important Mission Focus

THOSE WHO COME AFTER

If you're a CORAC leader, you've probably noticed something encouraging about our members. They care deeply. They're keen on the truth. They stay informed. They read articles. They follow the news. If there were a national championship for keeping up with current events, some of our members would be strong contenders. And that's not a bad thing. Informed citizens are important. Understanding what's happening in the country and the culture matters.

But as leaders, we've probably also noticed something else. Many of our members are already generous people in their personal lives. They support their parishes. They participate in other Catholic/Christian groups. They check on friends who are struggling. Quiet acts of charity are happening all the time. So the challenge before us is not a lack of goodwill.

The challenge is something more subtle: how to help that goodwill occasionally move from private acts into shared action as a community. In other words, how do we gently help people move from talking about the problems to quietly helping solve a few of them in the fulfillment of our mission?

To be clear, staying informed is valuable. But if we're honest, sometimes "staying informed" can slowly turn into a very respectable hobby. A person can read articles, watch commentary, discuss the issues, and—before long—feel like they've done quite a lot. Meanwhile, the flower beds still need weeding, the neighbor's fence still needs fixing, and the young family down the street is still trying to figure out how to survive their toddler's third consecutive meltdown in the grocery store.

Which brings us to something worth remembering: our greatest influence right now may not be in the comment section—it may be in the next generation.

When we look at the life of Jesus in the Gospels, something interesting stands out. Yes, He spoke to crowds. But much of His real work happened in much smaller settings—walking along dusty roads with a handful of followers, sharing meals, teaching and forming a group of disciples who would carry the mission forward.

He didn't simply broadcast ideas. He formed people. And those people eventually helped change the world.

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He also made very clear that young people mattered. When the disciples tried to keep children away—perhaps thinking Jesus had more important things to do—He corrected them immediately: *“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”* (Matthew 19:14)

Apparently, even the apostles occasionally needed a reminder about priorities.

For leaders in CORAC, that example offers an important lesson. We don’t need to convince other members that charity matters—they already believe that. But we can gently remind them that one of the most powerful ways we can act together is by investing in the people who will inherit the future.

Right now, many younger families are navigating life without the kind of guidance and support that previous generations often received naturally. Young parents are trying to build stable homes while simultaneously Googling things like *“Why is my toddler screaming about socks?”* Teenagers are searching for direction in a culture that sometimes provides very little of it. And whether they realize it or not, many of them could benefit enormously from the wisdom of people who have already walked those roads. Our members have that wisdom.

They’ve raised families. They’ve navigated careers. They’ve dealt with setbacks, disappointments, and the occasional plumbing disaster that somehow required three trips to the hardware store and still leaked afterward. They’re overcomers. They know that faith matters. Perseverance matters. And that sometimes the most important lessons in life arrive disguised as inconveniences. Those lessons are valuable. And younger generations often respond surprisingly well when that wisdom is offered as encouragement rather than criticism.

Of course, as leaders we will sometimes hear a familiar concern: *“Young people today don’t listen.”* Or perhaps: *“They’re too far gone.”*

It’s understandable that some members feel that way. Every generation has moments when the older generation looks at the younger one and wonders what exactly happened. But history tells us something reassuring: every generation has said that about the next one. And yet, when younger people encounter genuine interest, patient guidance, and authentic faith, many of them respond far more positively than we expect.

Jesus Himself experienced rejection. Some people walked away from His message. Yet He continued investing in people anyway—because planting seeds is part of the mission. Our job is not to guarantee results. Our job is simply to plant the seeds and trust God with the harvest.



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One of the easiest ways to help members move from discussion to action is by encouraging small, manageable efforts rather than large programs. After all, Jesus didn't begin His ministry by forming a strategic planning committee and distributing laminated name badges. He gathered a small group of people and started walking with them. He also sent His disciples out two by two, which suggests something important: people are far more likely to step forward when they don't feel like they're doing it alone.

As leaders, we might encourage members to form small groups—three or four people who occasionally meet, pray together, and ask a very simple question: Who around us could use encouragement? One group might check in regularly on widows. Another might help a young family with projects around the house. Another might mentor neighborhood teenagers or offer young people opportunities to learn responsibility through small jobs.

None of these ideas require a large program, complicated structure, or a 40-page planning document that nobody reads after page three. In fact, the simplicity is part of the beauty.

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* (Matthew 25:40)

Small acts done with love matter more than we often realize.

Our members will continue to stay informed about what's happening in the world—and that's a good thing. But as leaders, we can help frame that knowledge as a call to engagement, not just awareness. Every headline about the struggles facing our culture is also a reminder that someone nearby could use encouragement, guidance, or support.

Cultures are rarely rebuilt through large national movements alone. More often, they are renewed through thousands of small acts of mentorship, friendship, and service happening quietly in communities. Our members already have the faith, the experience, and the goodwill.

As leaders, our role is simply to help them see how powerful those gifts can become when they are shared—especially with the next generation. Because in the end, the future will not be shaped only by the energy of the young. It will also be shaped by whether the wisdom of older generations is passed along before someone changes the Wi-Fi password again.

ACTION ITEMS

Here are practical, low-friction actions you can start immediately—especially helpful with some of the older members that may hesitate to launch large initiatives. The goal is simple, relational, and repeatable, not complicated programs.



An Important Mission Focus *(continued)*

1. Start With the “Rule of Three”

Ask each member to team up with just two other members. Three people is small enough to be comfortable, but large enough to create momentum. Their mission for the next month:

- Identify one small act of service.
- Do it once together.
- Invite one younger person to participate if possible.

Examples:

- Help a single parent with yard work
- Fix something for an elderly neighbor
- Sponsor a neighborhood kid for a sports fee
- Clean up a local park or church property

No committees. No reports. Just three people doing one thing.

2. Replace One Online Conversation With One Real Action

Leaders can frame it this way: *“If we replaced just one online discussion per week with one small act of service, imagine the impact.”*

Encourage members to ask themselves:

- Instead of debating education policy... could we tutor a kid?
- Instead of arguing about the decline of family life... could we support a young family?
- Instead of lamenting loneliness... could we visit someone who is alone?

Same passion. Different outlet.

3. Host a “Wisdom Night”

Many younger people do want guidance, but they rarely get access to experienced adults outside family.

Leaders can organize a simple evening:

- Invite young adults, parents, teens, or scouts
- Ask 4–5 older members to share 10-minute stories
- Lessons from marriage
- Raising kids
- Work and responsibility
- Faith in difficult times

Not lectures—stories. Young people often listen best when wisdom comes wrapped in a good story.



An Important Mission Focus *(continued)*

4. Adopt One Young Family

Many young parents are overwhelmed and isolated. A small member group could:

- Bring a meal once a month
- Help with a home project
- Babysit occasionally
- Provide mentoring or encouragement

This kind of quiet support can be life-changing for a struggling young family.

5. Mentor One Young Person

Encourage members to look for just one opportunity:

- A teenager who needs guidance
- A college student who needs direction
- A young professional navigating life

It doesn't require a formal program. Sometimes mentorship is simply:

- Coffee once a month
- Helping with a resume
- Teaching practical skills
- Being someone who listens

Jesus formed the world-changing group of disciples one relationship at a time.

6. Launch a "One Hour a Month" Challenge

Many members hesitate because they think they must commit to something large. Lower the bar. Challenge the group: Give just one hour a month together as members. That's it.

Possible ideas:

- Deliver meals
- Write encouragement notes
- Help at a pregnancy center
- Volunteer at church events
- Support youth programs

Small efforts compound quickly when many people participate.



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7. Celebrate the Wins

Older members respond well when they see that their efforts matter. Encourage leaders to share quick stories:

- *“Three members helped a young mom repair her fence.”*
- *“Two members mentored a high school student applying to college.”*
- *“A small group cleaned up a neighborhood park.”*

These stories do two things:

1. Inspire others
2. Normalize action

Momentum grows when people realize: *“This isn’t a big program. It’s just us helping people.”*

8. Frame It the Right Way

Leaders can reassure members:

- This is not about replacing the charity work people already do.
- It’s about doing some of it together, as a visible witness of faith, family, and freedom in action.
- Think of it this way: Information prepares us. But charity is what changes the world.

As Christ reminds us in Gospel of Matthew: *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”* (Matthew 25:40)

A Simple Message Leaders Can Use

Leaders might say something like: *“Most of us are already serving in different ways. What we’re asking now is simple: let’s do a few small things together as the CORAC community. Not big programs. Just small acts of service that show the next generation what faith, family, and freedom actually look like in practice.”*

