



# Cor



## Working with Men's Ministries

### Overview

Many parishes already have active men's ministries. The presence of these ministries should not prevent *Cor* from also taking root in the parish.

*Cor* is a council initiative for all men of the parish that builds Christ-centered brotherhood through prayer, formation and fraternity. It does not replace or compete with existing men's ministries. Rather, it serves as another resource to help deepen men's interior lives.

Introducing *Cor* may touch on existing sensitivities. Building or restoring relationships with pastors and ministry leaders often takes time, diplomacy and patience. Approach the process prayerfully, with a mindset of humility and perseverance.

In relation to roles, the Grand Knight should focus on forming and maintaining positive relationships with the pastor and parish ministry leaders. The Council EFF Director should coordinate communication and collaboration about *Cor* with the men's ministries.

Remember, our mission is to build Christ-centered fraternity among men of the parish. This document provides strategies and action items to this end.

### Principles for Collaboration

When introducing *Cor* to your parish, focus first on relationships and a desire to build unity.

- 1. Honor what already exists.** Respect current ministries and their leadership. Humbly acknowledge the impact they've had on the men of the parish. The council should not come across as competitive, better-than or poachers.
- 2. Practice diplomacy.** Be respectful and patient when working with others, especially when there are differences. Remember, everyone is working to serve God.
- 3. Come prepared.** Know the mission of the Knights of Columbus and how it connects to the mission of *Cor*. Learn about existing ministries and prepare thoughtful talking points.
- 4. Explain patiently.** Some may have preconceived notions about the Knights. Listen and then take time to explain our roots in forming men in faith, and be patient – trust builds gradually.
- 5. Be creative and find common ground.** Collaboration isn't about winning or losing. Look for creative ways and common ground to find a solution that works for everyone.
- 6. Exercise prudence.** Use good judgment and sense of timing. It's okay to wait or take things slowly if relationships need to build more trust or healing first.
- 7. Keep your pastor informed.** Maintain regular communication about discussions and plans. In-person conversations should be followed up in writing.



## Ways Cor Can Add Value

Cor strengthens parish life by complementing – never competing with – existing men’s ministries. It provides new opportunities for men to grow in faith and brotherhood.

- 1. A “What’s Next” option.** Many men’s ministries finish a set program and need their next step. Cor offers a natural continuation for prayer, formation and fraternity.
- 2. Filling in the gaps.** If another group focuses on formation, Cor can provide prayer and fraternity (or vice versa). Cor enriches – it builds on what already exists and seeks to meet men’s needs.
- 3. Expanded opportunities.** Cor can meet at different times or frequencies than other groups. More options mean more men can connect and grow in faith.
- 4. Force multiplier.** Cor could be the opportunity to bring men together across multiple groups, fostering unity and communication.
- 5. Resource hub.** Through the Knights, Cor has access to a growing library of prayer and formation resources that can strengthen all men’s ministries.
- 6. Partnership in mission.** Every group plays a role in helping men grow closer to Christ. By working together, all can grow stronger in faith and fraternity.

## Suggested Steps

Follow these steps to introduce Cor in a way that respects, includes and strengthens all men’s groups in the parish. Adapt steps where needed. Every situation is unique.

### Step 1: Do your Homework

- Assess the history between the council, pastor and existing ministries.
- Identify where trust is strong and where repair may be needed.
- Determine which Cor resources would be helpful when speaking with pastor and ministry leaders. Refer to [Working with Your Pastor](#) and to [kofc.org/corleaders](http://kofc.org/corleaders) for resources.

#### *Helpful Cor resources for meetings:*

[Cor: A Guide for Clergy brochure](#)

[Clergy’s Role in Cor](#)

[Cor Foundations video](#)

[Cor brochure](#)

### Step 2: Talk with your Pastor

- Consult your council chaplain first regarding Cor, if he is not your pastor.
- If needed, bring along someone the pastor knows well and trusts to meeting.
- Ask the pastor what he believes is needed for men’s formation.
- Walk through what Cor offers and see how it fits with his pastoral needs.
- Request his permission and guidance for reaching out to any other clergy and existing men’s ministry leaders. Ask for contact information (ideally phone numbers) or, better yet, talk to leaders in-person.
- Acknowledge that not all Knights and men of the parish have opportunities for formation and brotherhood. The goal of Cor is to see how it can **add value** or **offer more opportunities for men to encounter Christ**.



### Step 3: Meet with Men's Ministry Leaders

- Are any of the other men's group leaders already Knights or former Knights? What is their relationship with the council? Is it good or strained?
- Begin to socialize the idea of *Cor*. Look for existing relationships and inroads with other leaders.
- Call to introduce yourself and set up an informal conversation with leaders, perhaps over coffee or a meal.
- **Listen first.** Learn about their ministry's goals, format and needs. Don't be afraid to ask about their perceptions of the Knights.
- Share what *Cor* is and why it's being introduced. Connect it to Blessed McGivney's founding mission of forming men in faith.
- Emphasize **collaboration** and **shared mission**: You're not taking away – only adding where it helps most.
- Conclude by agreeing to pray and discern next steps before deciding anything.

#### **Tips for Setting Up Initial Talk**

**Ask In-Person or via Phone:**  
“Can we find a time to chat – maybe coffee after Mass – about an initiative the Knights would like to offer the men of the parish? I'd value your insight on how we might best collaborate.”

### Step 4: Pray, Discern, and Plan

- Spend time in **earnest prayer** asking for God's direction.
- After an appropriate time, meet again for a more formal conversation.
- Listen to their feedback first; then share your ideas for collaboration.
- Be **creative** and **flexible**. Don't be afraid to compromise in certain areas to achieve shared goals.
- Work together on a plan – write it down and share it for clarity.
- Provide a debrief to the Grand Knight and relevant council officers to ensure everyone is on board.
- Review the plan with your pastor and ministry leaders together.
- If pastor is in support of the proposed plan, move forward and keep all parities informed. If not, ask for suggested adjustments or discern if it may not be the right time to implement. It is okay to wait.

### Pitfalls to Avoid

Building collaboration takes time and trust. Be patient, prayerful and intentional.

- **Expecting zero resistance.** Some hesitation is normal. Change takes time, and trust grows slowly.
- **Assuming everyone is on board.** Even with pastoral support, not all ministry leaders will agree right away. Continue building relationships and understanding.
- **Thinking one meeting is enough.** Collaboration is ongoing. Stay engaged through regular check-ins and shared activities.
- **Taking an “all or nothing” approach.** Look for both/and solutions, not either/or. Small steps forward are still progress. You have permission to use another name than “*Cor*” if that gets you across the finish line.
- **Overstepping boundaries.** Always respect the pastor's authority and ministries' leadership. Act as a partner, not a replacement.
- **Assuming all men are already involved.** Many men may still be seeking opportunities for connection and formation.



## Overcoming Objections

When introducing *Cor*, some parish leaders may raise honest questions or concerns. Respond with patience, respect and clarity.

**“We already have an active men’s ministry.”** That’s great. We want to see if *Cor* can support your group in any way or serve as an additional resource that might help the parish.

**“Having more than one men’s group would divide the men up.”** Having more options helps reach more men, not fewer. Everyone’s schedules and interests are different, so the more choices available, the better chance to engage more men.

**“The Knights do service, not formation.”** True, we’re known for our service. But when Blessed Michael McGivney started the Knights, one of his main goals was to help men grow in their faith together. *Cor* isn’t something entirely new – it’s a way to focus more intentionally on what we were founded upon.

**“The Knights will just take over if we let them be involved.”** We’re not looking to take over – just to help where we can. Shared leadership will help expand and continue prayer, formation and fraternity into the future.

## Real Life Examples

Real experiences show how *Cor* can fit smoothly alongside existing men’s ministries – strengthening relationships, deepening faith and uniting men across the parish.

- “Our parish already had a few strong men’s groups that met weekly. We launched *Cor* to meet monthly on a unique day and time, and invited members of the existing groups to join. *Cor* now serves as a unifying space – an aggregator – bringing men from across the parish together once a month for prayer, formation and fraternity.” – John M., Council EFF Director
- “Our council provides a meal and time of fraternity before the existing men’s group gatherings. It was a way we found to contribute that goes a long way in building rapport, trust and friendship with the men involved.” – Kevin B., Grand Knight
- “I joined the existing men’s group to show support and get to know the men better. This group meets monthly in the evening. We will offer *Cor* as a morning gathering on a different day, giving men another option that may better fit their schedules. The more opportunities we can provide for men to connect, the more men we can collectively engage.” – Darryl B., Grand Knight

## Key Takeaways

Every parish is unique. Use judgement, patience and prayer to build collaboration.



- **Collaborate** – don’t compete
- **Share resources** – better together
- **Increase opportunities** – for men to grow in holiness
- **Offer to help** – be willing to adapt and support
- **Follow-up** – collaboration grows over time; it is not a single meeting or conversation

