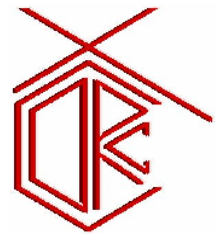




Diocese of Peterborough Youth Office CORC



CORC Constitution

What is CORC?

CORC is a youth ministry group under the direction of the Youth Office (VEYO) of the Catholic Diocese of Peterborough in Ontario, Canada. As such, CORC is firmly rooted in the faith of the Church and is faithful to her teachings and traditions. An acronym for “**C**atholics **O**n the **R**oad for **C**hrist”, members of CORC share their faith with their peers through ministry initiatives at various youth events across the Diocese for the greater glory of God and for the good of souls.

CORC Patron Saints

As a group embracing the rich heritage of the Catholic faith, CORC has two patron saints to function as role models for the members and to watch over their ministry. St. Geneviève (+512 at Paris, France) and St. Dominic Savio (+1857 at Mondonio, Italy) are the saintly companions on CORCs’ journey and are called upon for assistance with their work. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the primary source of inspiration, guidance and strength as CORCs seek to make his love and mercy a bit more visible and tangible for the youth they have set out to serve.

CORC history

CORC evolved out of SONfest ’05, the annual Youth Days of the Diocese of Peterborough, when some youth helped facilitate the 3-day event. Specifically, CORCs assisted with prayer sessions and liturgies, ran group activities and small group discussions, led singing and assisted with technical details. Following this Catholic youth festival, CORC became the official youth ministry organization of the Diocese, which is continuing to grow steadily in number and in responsibilities. Other than SONfest, CORCs have been involved with numerous other events including “LifeSaver Retreats” in elementary schools, an outdoor “Way of the Cross” through downtown Peterborough, “Rock the Flock” concerts in local high schools and “Morning Watch” all-night adorations. CORCs have led the singing at Holy Mass and at Praise & Worship sessions in different parishes and are eager to develop their skills, especially in public speaking, drama and music ministry. CORCs have been meeting on a regular basis, about twice a month, and continue to grow together in faith as they prepare and perfect their ministry.

CORC ministry

CORCs seek to proclaim and live the Gospel of Christ, giving a personal and communal witness to their faith. They seek to invite young people to live consciously for Christ in their daily lives and encourage them to form their character and conscience according to truly Christian values through study and practice of the faith. Finally, CORCs wish to help people grow in understanding of and dedication to Christ’s Church and her mission.

To this effect, CORC is divided into subgroups which organize and prepare ministry through different methods such as drama, music, witness talks and study of the faith. With their God-given talents in these areas CORCs work to serve young people at different levels of spiritual development and faithfully administer God's grace in its various forms.

Each subgroup would be led by a CORC responsible for setting the date for practices and lessons, calling together those signed up for this particular area, and making sure the objectives are being achieved in good time for the next CORC meeting.

CORC training and formation

Part of what makes CORC exciting and effective is the personal desire of each member to know more about the faith. JP II retreats, conferences, workshops and seminars are as much part of the ongoing formation process as are personal study and group discussions. In any and all of these areas fidelity to the Church's teachings is essential. Formation and training sessions, therefore, need to be organized and led by qualified teachers of the Church officially delegated for this purpose by the Bishop of Peterborough. Any questions or concerns regarding the faith arising during group discussions or at regular meetings are to be referred to the director of VEYO.

Joining CORC

CORCs are youth between the ages of 14 and 25 who have an understanding of their faith, wish to learn more about it and seek fellowship with other faith-filled young people in the Diocese. CORCs have the desire to help others grow in their faith by sharing their own experiences and their passion for Christ and the Church through ministry, through discussions, events, music and worship, through witness talks, drama and study.

Generally speaking, those wishing to become or remain a member of CORC display a personal commitment to Christ, practice their faith conscientiously, have a desire to learn more about the faith and help others discover it as well. In addition, CORCs seek to grow in love for the Church and her mission, especially for the Holy Father.

Specifically, members attend regular meetings and share in ministry initiatives whenever possible. New members need to fill out an application, signed by a guardian if required, submit two letters of reference, one from your pastor, to the Director of VEYO and have a personal interview with him. After attending a minimum of five, preferably consecutive, meetings as well as any other CORC events scheduled during this time frame, new members will receive a formal commissioning through the Bishop of Peterborough.

Those candidates or members who cannot attend regular CORC meetings in or around Peterborough due to the considerable geographic expanse of the Diocese (from Parry Sound to Brighton) can become e-CORCs, that is, "extended" CORCs. The application process for e-CORCs is the same as outlined above except for attendance at CORC meetings (see below). All e-CORCs are regular members of the group with all the responsibilities and privileges, mostly spiritual, resulting from membership in CORC.

Length of commitment to CORC

With the formal acceptance of a candidate by the bishop a CORC would remain committed to the organization. CORCs, who for a time live outside the Diocese, shall be considered like e-CORCs (see above) and those, who have reached 26 years of age, will

become CORC-alumni, but can still participate in all events and activities. The Director of VEYO shall formally dismiss those who wish to cancel or who forfeit their membership.

To be a CORC

To be a CORC means being committed to the faith, to Christ and his Church. To be a CORC means being willing to share the faith and one's gifts with others for their good, not one's own. To be a CORC means, therefore, to serve others as Christ came to serve, not to be served, finding joy and satisfaction in this service, as Christ promised. This kind of witness is not just personal, but also communal. All members of CORC are united in their common faith and in their common mission, and consider themselves, therefore, linked to each other as true brothers and sisters in Christ. Such unity, which was Christ's hope and wish for the whole Church, must be evident in everything CORCs say and do whether at meetings, at events or in private.

CORC spirit

The CORC spirit, result of their faith and youthful disposition, is obvious at all their public functions as well as at their regular meetings. Inspired by the Word of God and nourished by the Sacraments of the Church, CORCs are a pretty lively and cheerful group, professing themselves, in a half-serious, half-joking way, to be "tremendously happy" people and seeking to spread that sense of joy for life and for God everywhere they go. Meet them to believe it!

CORC meetings

CORCs meet on a regular basis, but at least once a month in different Churches or parish halls. An agenda is set before the meetings and e-mailed to all CORCs, including all e-CORCs in other places around the Diocese. Roughly 30 minutes of each meeting are reserved for spiritual exercises such as Mass, rosary, adoration, praise & worship or other. 60 minutes are set aside for business items, witness talks, reflections or discussions. The remaining 30 minutes or more are social time. Meetings are led by a chair or vice-chair and recorded by a secretary. Any decisions to be taken at the meeting need to be approved by a simple majority of those attending and then submitted to the director of VEYO for approval. The director of VEYO may approve, veto or amend decisions for CORC at his own discretion.

All e-CORCs receive the same agenda and minutes. But since they cannot attend the regular meetings, they will be part of CORC decisions, deliberations and developments through e-mail by submitting their suggestions and questions. Their contributions are vital, since they connect the different parts of the Diocese to its center. These contributions will, therefore, be included in the agenda for the following meeting. It is recommended that e-CORCs come to regular meetings whenever possible. In any event, they observe the 30-minute spiritual element of the meeting schedule (e.g. by going to Mass on a weekday or saying the rosary) and would keep in touch with individual CORCs as often as possible. Of course, e-CORCs just like all other CORCs are to take part in all CORC events and initiatives unless prevented for some good reason.

CORC satellites

Five e-CORCs in a parish or in neighboring parishes anywhere in the Diocese can constitute a CORC satellite and can start meetings locally. Such CORC satellites will be known by the name of the town or city they meet in, and the meetings follow the same outline and

agenda as those at CORC headquarters in Peterborough. Meetings are chaired by a vice-chair only who is to confer with the CORC chair in Peterborough. Minutes of these meetings will be sent to CORC headquarters and to the director of VEYO so that their contents can be included in the agenda for the following meeting. At least once year, likely in connection with the Bishop's commissioning ceremony, there is to be a CORC reunion of all members of CORC from around the Diocese, preferably to take place in a different parish each year.

CORC offices

The director of VEYO is the president of CORC and has veto power in all matters pertaining to the nature, ministry and mission of CORC. CORC headquarters is to be in close contact with the president. All unresolved matters such as ties are to be referred to the president for final decisions.

There is to be a CORC chairperson elected or selected from among all CORCs and e-CORCs in the Diocese. In addition, each CORC satellite including CORC headquarters in Peterborough is to have a vice-chair and a secretary position. All positions require the approval of the director of VEYO and are limited to a one-year term.

It is the responsibility of the CORC chairperson to make sure operations at CORC headquarters are running smoothly and all CORC satellites are functioning properly. He / she is to lead the meetings at CORC headquarters in Peterborough and assign different CORCs to the various tasks at hand.

The vice-chair at CORC headquarters functions as a communications director for all CORCs making sure that dates and places of meetings and events are properly communicated, either by e-mail or by phone, to all members of CORC across the Diocese.

The vice-chairs of CORC satellites are to lead their local meetings and remain in frequent contact with CORC headquarters.

The secretaries at CORC headquarters and at all CORC satellites are to take minutes of the meetings, making sure the results of the meetings are properly and succinctly covered. They are to e-mail the minutes back to CORC headquarters and the new agendas together with the previous minutes to their local members.

If any of the above officers are absent, the vice-chair would take on responsibilities of the CORC chairperson at CORC headquarters; all others would be temporarily replaced by any other CORC member selected by those attending the meeting.

CORC finances

There is no membership fee and most of the cost for events and activities will be taken care of by the Youth Office (VEYO) of the Diocese unless some contribution is being requested for particular items or initiatives which would be subject to the individual's approval or that of his / her guardian.

The CORC Constitution was approved by Bishop De Angelis of Peterborough on July 16, 2006, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. With this approval, CORC has become an official organization of the Diocese of Peterborough.