

# Case Studies in the Operating Rules of the Church

# Goals

- Case studies aid as a review of information from the Orthodox Leadership Training Program
- Can be used for open discussion to set protocols for a Parish
- Use the case studies as a training tool for your Parish Leadership Team

# What is a case study?

- An open-ended actual story
  - No Ending Given
  - Brings reality into classroom
- A difficult problem without an obvious solution
- Forces us into a real situation where we have to answer:  
“What do we do now?”

# How to use a case study

1. Read the entire case study narrative
2. Formulate a clear statement of the problem
3. Identify the issues at stake
4. Clarify facts as well as feelings
5. Consider the case study from different angles
6. Dig around for resources
7. Make some assertions

# Background

All Saints Greek Orthodox Parish is a fictitious church. It is headed by the equally fictitious Fr. George.

The scenarios presented are in no way reflective of any Parish or Parish Priest or Parish Members in the Metropolis, but are used for discussion purposes only.

# Case Scenario:

# What's our Future?

The Planning Committee Chairman has just informed the Parish Council President, “ I have great news! We have a donor for our new outdoor playground.” The President is surprised but happy to hear the news.

There had been no long term plans for a playground on All Saints property, but the President realizes many of the younger families have wanted this. As he found more information, he realized the donor was someone who he and the priest, had hoped could donate towards the interior of the church to complete the Sanctuary.



As word spread through the community, the Parish Council President, began to sense some uneasiness. Many of the founding parishioners wanted the green space around the church to remain.

Other members were hoping to add a larger hall or gym to the existing structure into the same space. The younger families were happy to hear the news of the playground as a place where their children could play after church and Greek School.

The Parish Council planned to meet and discuss the issue, but there was division among the Council, as each member represented different factions within the church. What seemed like a generous donation was creating tension throughout the Parish. The President found himself in the middle as all were coming to him to voice their opinions. He did not know what to do next.

# Case Scenario 4 Discussion Questions

- Why do you suppose there is tension within All Saints community?
- What could have been done to prevent this tension?
- How do you think the donor is feeling after making his donation?
- What should the President and Parish Council do next?