

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:

Finance Committee Meltdown

You as the President of the Parish Council receive an email from one of your parishioners on the Finance Committee:

Help! I wish I had never agreed to serve on the finance committee! One of the other committee members is so annoying! George delights in using cutting humor and seems to look for ways to ridicule others' ideas and suggestions, especially mine.

When George disagreed with me on a financial issue during last night's meeting, I finally lost my patience. Knowing that he is self-conscious about not attending college, I said something like, "I can see why these figures are hard for you to understand George, but if you had just a little more education, it would all add up." He just sat there stunned, and the rest of the group moved on with the discussion. It was awkward. And I felt sorry for saying it but he had it coming.

This morning I received an email from George harshly criticizing me for all sorts of wrongdoings. I can see why he is angry with me belittling him in front of the others, but he has made all sorts of other accusations that are exaggerated or completely untrue. He concludes by saying I am unfit to serve on the finance committee. He also sent a copy to the chairman.

Case Scenario 5 Discussion Questions

- Why do you suppose George is so upset?
- What could have been done to prevent this tension?
- What should you as the Parish Council President do now?
- What steps should be taken to resolve the issue?