



CORWORKS

WHAT IS CORWORKS? FOR PASTORS & PARISH TEAMS

UNDERSTANDING CORWORKS

WHAT IS CORWORKS?

CorWorks is a one-week, retreat-style intensive that equips parish teams to tackle a real, local problem – and to actually build a tested solution, not just talk about one.

It is an initiative of the OSV Institute, applying proven methods from the social innovation and business sectors – design thinking, rapid prototyping, and community listening – to the Church's call to encounter Christ in the suffering through the Corporal Works of Mercy.

By the end of the accelerator week, your team will have a working prototype of a solution and a 90-day roadmap to launch it. Participating parishes also receive up to \$25,000 in seed funding.

WHAT DOES 'ACCELERATOR' MEAN? I KEEP HEARING THAT WORD.

Fair question – it's not a word that shows up often in parish life. The term comes from the startup world, where an accelerator is a structured, time-limited program designed to help teams move quickly from idea to working prototype.

Instead of spending a year planning something and hoping it works, accelerator participants design, test, and learn in a compressed period – then act on what they've discovered. The intensity is part of the design. It creates focus, builds momentum, and produces something real.

CorWorks applies that same discipline to parish mission. In one week, your team moves from a defined problem to a tested prototype. Then over the following 90 days, you implement it – with coaching alongside you the whole way.



IS CORWORKS A **PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM?**

Not in the traditional sense. Programs like Divine Renovation, Amazing Parish, and CLI are designed to strengthen parish culture, leadership structure, and team health – and they do that well.

CorWorks is something different. It assumes your parish already has a heart for mission. What it gives you is a disciplined process for turning that heart into concrete action on a specific, local problem. Think of it as the next step after renewal: you've built the team – now build the initiative.

WHAT IS CORWORKS **NOT?**

CorWorks is not a strategic planning program, a pre-packaged ministry model, or a theoretical workshop. It is a practical, time-bound accelerator designed to produce real, tested initiatives.

CorWorks is also not a program your parish does passively. It requires genuine commitment – a pastor who is an active champion, a team willing to experiment, and a problem you care enough about to do real work.

IS CORWORKS RIGHT FOR US?

WHO IS CORWORKS **DESIGNED FOR?**

CorWorks is designed for parish teams of 3–4 collaborators, who:

- Have their pastor's explicit support
- Are already convinced their parish is called to serve the suffering in their community
- Have a specific local problem they want to address, but lack a clear path forward
- Are open to experimentation – and willing to learn from what doesn't work
- Can commit to the one-week intensive and engage through the 90-day implementation

You don't need to have all the answers before you apply. You do need to be ready to go looking for them.



WHAT KIND OF **PROBLEM** SHOULD WE BE BRINGING?

The problems CorWorks is designed for are local, specific, and rooted in human suffering – the kind of need you can see in the faces of people in your community, not an abstract challenge. Examples might include:

- Isolated elderly parishioners with no meaningful connection or way to get to Mass
- Families experiencing housing insecurity who are invisible to existing parish services
- Immigrants and newcomers in the parish boundary who have no point of contact with the Church

The specificity matters. The stronger your understanding of who is affected and what they are actually experiencing, the more productive the accelerator week will be.

DO WE NEED TO HAVE A **SOLUTION** IN MIND BEFORE APPLYING?

No. The accelerator week is where you develop and test potential solutions. What you do need before applying is a clearly defined problem and real firsthand contact with the people affected – conversations you've had, things you've observed, situations you understand. The application will ask you to demonstrate this.

CorWorks provides Pre-Work Worksheets alongside the application to help your team get there if you haven't started yet.

WHAT IF WE'RE A SMALL PARISH WITH **LIMITED STAFF**?

CorWorks is **not** designed for large, resource-rich parishes only. The team of 3-4 can include staff, lay leaders, and committed volunteers – people who know the community, care about the problem, and are willing to do the work. Passion and proximity matter more than professional credentials.



WHAT TO EXPECT

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE ONE-WEEK INTENSIVE?

Each day is built around deep work sessions, spiritual grounding, and collaborative problem-solving. The week follows a disciplined process:

Listen → Diagnose → Design → Prototype → Test.

A sample daily schedule:

Time	Block
7:00 AM	Coffee available
7:30 AM	Morning Prayer
7:45 AM	Mass
8:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Session 1 begins
10:30–10:45 AM	Break
10:45 AM	Session 2 begins
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	Session 3 begins
3:00–3:15 PM	Break
3:15 PM	Session 4 begins (Mon–Thu only)
5:00 PM	Vespers
5:15 PM	Adoration
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Evening Reflection (Mon–Thu only)
7:30 PM	Free time

Note on Friday: The accelerator concludes at lunch. Morning sessions are active; the program ends after the midday meal. No afternoon sessions or evening reflection.



WHERE DOES THE ACCELERATOR TAKE PLACE? **DO I NEED TO TRAVEL?**

CorWorks is designed as a residential retreat experience – not a series of day sessions you commute to. Your team will live and work together at a retreat facility for the full week. This is intentional. The immersive, away-from-parish environment is what makes the depth of work possible. It removes the noise of daily operations, creates space for genuine discernment, and builds the kind of team trust that sustains the 90-day implementation ahead.

Venue: Lindenwood Retreat Center, Plymouth, Indiana (pending final confirmation). Lodging, meals, and program space are all on-site.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE **ACCELERATOR WEEK?**

The work continues – and CorWorks continues with you through a structured 90-day roadmap phase.

- Week 2: Group Check-In Call – Full cohort + OSV team, 60 minutes. First post-accelerator touchpoint.
- Week 3: Individual Coaching Call – Your team + OSV advisor, 45 minutes.
- Week 4: Virtual Debrief – Full cohort, 3 hours. Present findings, finalize roadmap, grant conversation.
- Month 2 (QPR 1): Individual progress review with OSV advisor, 30 minutes.
- Month 3 (QPR 2): Individual progress review with OSV advisor, 30 minutes.
- Month 4 (QPR 3): Final progress review of the roadmap phase, 30 minutes.
- Beyond Month 4 (optional): Parishes may continue with quarterly OSV advisor calls (every 3 months) for ongoing support.

QPR stands for Quarterly Progress Review – your regular accountability checkpoint with an OSV advisor throughout implementation.



WHAT DOES OUR TEAM **WALK AWAY WITH?**

At the end of the full CorWorks program, your parish team will have:

- A prototype blueprint of your solution – something real, not just a plan on paper
- A 90-day roadmap with clear next steps and measurable goals
- Practical skills in design thinking, community listening, and rapid prototyping – yours to keep and use again
- A stronger team culture built through shared mission and genuine collaboration
- Up to \$25,000 in seed funding to support the launch of your initiative

WHAT IS THE **SEED FUNDING**, AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Participating parishes may receive up to \$25,000 from the OSV Institute to fund the launch of their initiative. This is not a grant competition. It is an investment in your team's work – designed to reduce the financial risk of trying something new and to signal that OSV has skin in the game alongside you.

Details on funding distribution, eligibility, and reporting requirements are provided during the program. No formal funding proposal is required in the application.

THE HARD QUESTIONS

WHAT IF WE TRY SOMETHING AND **IT DOESN'T WORK?**

That is part of the process. CorWorks is designed as a sandbox – a structured space where failure is expected, learned from, and built upon. Rapid prototyping means testing small and learning fast before you commit to anything fully. By the time you reach implementation, you've already filtered out what doesn't work.

The coaches who walk alongside your team during the 90-day phase are there precisely because implementation is where things get complicated. You won't be left to figure it out alone.



OUR PASTOR IS SUPPORTIVE BUT VERY BUSY. CAN WE STILL APPLY?

Yes – and we've designed the pastor's role with this reality in mind. The pastor does not need to attend every session of the accelerator week. What is required is genuine sponsorship: the pastor understands the initiative, has approved the direction, and commits to a brief weekly 15-minute check-in during the program week.

A pastor who is an active champion – even from a distance – makes an enormous difference for the team doing the work. Passive sign-off is not enough.

HOW IS CORWORKS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PROGRAMS WE'VE TRIED?

Most parish programs give you content, frameworks, or inspiration. CorWorks gives you a process – and stays with you while you use it.

- You leave with something built, not just something learned
- The tools are yours to keep and apply to future challenges – no perpetual dependency on CorWorks
- You are accompanied through implementation, not left on your own after the retreat energy fades
- The seed funding means OSV is genuinely invested in your success

The goal is not to create a CorWorks-dependent parish, but a parish with a new way of thinking that outlasts any single initiative.

IS THERE A COST TO OUR PARISH TO PARTICIPATE?

CorWorks represents approximately \$300,000 in program value – and there is no program fee to participating parishes.

We do require a \$2,500 refundable deposit at the time of acceptance. This deposit is returned in full upon completion of the 90-day roadmap phase. It is not a fee, it is a commitment signal, and it comes back to you.

If the deposit presents a genuine financial hardship for your parish, please reach out to us before declining to apply. We want to remove barriers, not create them. The deposit is designed to ensure mutual investment in the work – not to exclude parishes who need this program most.

