

A BRAINSTORMING TECHNIQUE FOR SMALL GROUPS

1. Make sure everyone understands the problem to be addressed. (See below.)
 2. Everyone needs a pencil and enough scratch paper.
 3. Pray to the Holy Spirit for vision and inspiration.
 4. Each individual lists all ideas, good, bad, foolish, and practical concerning our topic. Let images flow freely without judging them.
 5. Share with the group at least one practical idea and one wild idea from your list. What seems like a wild idea may often have the seeds of a real creative solution.
 6. The group scribe lists all ideas or solutions that are presented. This works best on a large paper or chalkboard that all can see.
 7. Choose two or three practical and two or three wild ideas from our group list for ongoing consideration.
 8. Make a two-column list of the good and difficulties of each brainstorm.
 9. Have a free discussion of possible ways to change, develop, or improve the idea.
 10. Ask; how does this fit our original question, topic or problem?
 11. Compose a brief file summary of the brainstorm session.
 12. Decide on what action to take.
 - Keep it on file.
 - Scrap it or do nothing.
 - Pass the conclusions on to the appropriate people.
 - Publish it. Make the information available to parishioners or others.
 - Act on it ourselves
 - Keep it in our prayers.
 - Table it until next meeting.
 - Do farther research.
 - What?
-

We may choose from the following suggested questions for our brainstorming exercise or decide on other questions as may seem relevant..

1. *How can we invite lapsed Catholics back to the Church?*
2. *How can we help our Catholics Returning Home program?*
3. *How can we encourage more parishioners to grow in their Catholic Faith?*
4. *How can we improve our sense of community and belonging?*
5. *How can we keep our younger generation committed to Jesus alive in His Catholic Church?*
6. *How can we foster a better sense of stewardship?*
7. *How can we attract our neighbors to consider joining our Church?*
8. *How can we get more candidates for our parish RCIA?*
9. *How might we encourage more active participation at Holy Mass?*
10. *How might we encourage more participation in our parish activities?*
11. *How might we encourage more commitment to our parish ministries?*
12. *What might we do as a parish to become a more holy people of God?*
13. *What other parish concern should be addressed?*
14. *How can we foster Christian unity? How can we better cooperate in ecumenical activities?*