

Web-based SPEAK OUT

Proposal

Consider reviving the SPEAK OUT events once held at Assemblies and chaired by Mary Mangan. SPEAK OUT would be website based. Topics could be suggested from community members and could change monthly so that any issue might be discussed online.

Background/rationale

Raising issues, ideas or topics that garner a strong interest among community or congregational members would be a way of alerting leadership to an issue that might need addressing.

Implementation

Create an icon for 'members only' portion of Loretto website that would become a place for SPEAK OUT topics. Topics can be submitted by any community member. If no interest is elicited, the next topic can be posted. If a topic generates interest, it would remain on site for one month as a blog for any comments, thoughts, etc. A group of "editors" would take responsibility on a rotating basis (like we presently do for other Loretto publications) for oversight of SPEAK OUT blog. After topic has completed posting, the author could submit a topic for further discussion at the next round of community group meetings, with recommendations for action, etc.

There would be no timelines for SPEAK OUT, except that any topic would be posted for two weeks for all to address or not address, as they deem appropriate.

Timeline: This initiative would be operative for one year. At the end of this time, site managers would conduct a survey to help decide whether this should continue, and share all information in a summary report to the Community.

Expense would be minimal, except for time and energy by the author.

Submitted by

Angela Bianco, Rosemary Chinnici, Denise Ann Clifford, Rosemary Fiori, Mary Nelle Gage, Mary McAuliffe, Joan Spero, Mary Kay Widger

June 29, 2009 — The group was asked who would participate. About 1/4-1/3 of the room would participate. Rather than taking action on Proposal 10, the Community members gathered expressed their interest in having the Community move ahead on setting up a way to continue to raise issues among ourselves and converse electronically with one another between gatherings, such as a blog.

Cathy Mueller agreed that the staff would take action on the technology to get it up and running. Angela Bianco will work with volunteers to follow-up with the details to do whatever else was needed. The members present didn't actually vote on Proposal 10, but got a sense of how the community felt about the idea.