

## INCLUDING OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Yes, you can have open-ended questions as part of your CARA Parish Life Survey!

It costs a little more, but open-ended questions provide your parishioners with a chance to communicate what they most want you to know. This is an effective way to see emerging trends within the parish.

CARA offers parishes three options when including open-ended questions:

- For \$2 per comment, CARA can transcribe and analyze all comments. The analysis of the responses is presented in a special section of the report. Transcribed comments are presented in an appendix to the report. The parish is only charged when a responding parishioner writes in a comment.
- For \$1 per comment, CARA can transcribe all comments and present the transcribed comments in an appendix to the report. The parish is only charged when a responding parishioner writes in a comment.
- For no charge, the parish can include an open-ended question on the CARA questionnaire and transcribe and/or analyze the comments itself.

CARA recommends that a parish use up to two open-ended questions. Some of the most popular open-ended questions are:

- 1) What do you feel is the parish's *greatest strength*?
- 2) What is the *greatest challenge* facing the parish?
- 3) What one thing do *you like best* about the parish?
- 4) On what one *need or program* should the parish most focus?
- 5) What is the *most important need* for our parish to focus on in the next one to three years?

CARA will work closely with the parish to develop open-ended questions that best serve the needs of the parish.

