**Fist to Five**

Many persons are accustomed to the simplicity of "yes" and "no" voting. Fist to Five offers an enriched method of decision-making by introducing the *quality* of the "yes." In this method, a fist (preserved for exceptional circumstances) signifies a “no,” while any number of fingers signifies a “yes.” Each finger beyond “1” indicates how robust the “yes” is.

This consensus technique moves a community away from *quantity* voting toward *quality* voting, which is considerably more informative. Fist to Five is an efficient barometric tool to test for the “sense” of the group.

In Fist to Five, the number of fingers raised indicates one’s level of agreement with a proposal. Generally speaking, after a proposal is clearly articulated, community members raise hands simultaneously to communicate levels of agreement. This gives a detailed visual representation of the community’s enthusiasm for the proposal.

• **5 fingers mean** “I think this is the best possible proposal. It’s great!”

• **4 fingers mean** “I think this is good. I’m in favor of this proposal.”

• **3 fingers mean** “I think I’m in the middle somewhere. I like some of the proposal, but not all of it. I welcome more conversation.”

• **2 fingers mean** “I think there are better options, but I could live with this proposal with some ease. I welcome more conversation.”

• **1 finger means** “I think there is much more work that could be done on this proposal. I will go along, but barely. I welcome more conversation.”

• **A fist means** “I object and will block agreement/consensus.” (This is often used to communicate a moral/ethical stand.)

**PRACTICE SCENARIO:** The neighborhood parish, St. Ignatius, recently informed your JVC NW community that your community has historically organized the Labor Day Potluck Picnic at Fernhill Park. The picnic is 10 am – 3 pm. In the past, your JVC NW community has organized set-up, meal planning, clean-up, musical entertainment, a wide array children’s activities, an all-ages Bingo extravaganza, and the closing liturgy. Last year about 175-200 parishioners and neighbors attended—the most ever! *This* year, the Labor Day picnic falls on the same weekend as Arrupe House’s camping trip, to which your community has been invited.

**\*PROPOSAL:** Our community will, like it has historically, take the lead on St. Ignatius’ Labor Day Potluck Picnic.