



NAFSCC
North American
Forum For
**SMALL
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITIES**

FNPCC
Foro Norteamericano
Para
**LAS DEQUEÑAS
COMUNIDADES
CRISTIANAS**

FNAPCF
Le Forum nord-américain
pour
**LES PETITES
COMMUNAUTÉS
DE FOI**

www.nafsc.org

NAFSCC E-Newsletter

October 15, 2010
Volume 7, Issue 1

The NAFSCC E-Newsletters sent bimonthly to members

"Internal to the parish, especially if vast and territorially extensive, small Church communities, where present, can be a notable help in the formation of Christians by providing a consciousness and an experience of ecclesial communion and mission which are more extensive and incisive." (Pope John Paul II, *The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People*, 61)

NAFSCC Website

Go to NAFSCC.org to look at NAFSCC redesigned website. You will find informative ideas and thoughts on small Christian communities—resources, success stories, upcoming events.

You have an opportunity to post comments—ideas—questions on the website.

We look forward to hearing from you.

An Invitation to Share Your Stories

If you have success SCC stories, send them. If you have written articles or highlights on SCCs in your diocese or parish, send them. If you know of resources to share, send them. If you have questions on SCCs, send them.

We will post them on the NAFSCC E-Newsletter.

Send to Marci Blum OSF,
DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us.

The *Bookmark on Ways to Pray the Scripture* was first released at the January 2010 *Gathering* that the Office of Catechesis hosted. The response was both positive and immediate with several catechetical leaders requesting additional copies on the spot. This June at another *Gathering*, the leaders attending *Connecting Catholics Families with the Bible* workshop encouraged our office to invite our parishes to order quantities of the *Bookmark* for their parish leaders, lectors, catechists, bible studies, parishioners as well as others who find the *Bookmark* helpful. The questions offered in the *Bookmark* prompt personal prayer and communal faith sharing. We were gratified with these responses arising from testing the usefulness of the *Bookmark*.

The attached copy of the *Bookmark* will enable you to determine whether it will be useful in your parish setting. The *Bookmark* may be ordered from our office at no charge. See attachment.

Ordering

Please submit your order for the *Bookmark* either in hard copy, by email to: pbeh@dioceseoftrenton.org or fax: 609-406-7418 to:

Office of Catechesis
 701 Lawrenceville Road
 P.O. Box 5147
 Trenton, NJ 08638-0147



This *Bookmark* is an outgrowth of the Small Christian Community Ministry in the Office of Catechesis and its initiative known as *Welcome the Word: God Would Like a Word with You!* The mission of the ministry is to encourage prayer, faith sharing and engagement with the scriptures for a deepening personal and communal faith and discipleship.

++++
 My order is for _____ copies of the *Bookmark*

Name: _____

Parish: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

FAX Number: _____



SAVE THE DATE

SCC Formation Day

**Sponsored by
 The North American
 Forum for Small
 Christian Communities
 (NAFSCC)
 and the
 Archdiocese of
 Cincinnati
 SCC Formation Team**

**Saturday, March 19,
 2011
 Cincinnati OH**

**More information to
 follow**

Nurturing the Leadership Potential of SCC Members

Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL – Diane Kledzik

Our Diocese of St. Petersburg was fortunate to have recently hosted the NAPRC Conference this past July at Nativity Parish in Brandon, FL. There were many workshops and presentations that stressed the importance of the role of the pastoral facilitator/small community leader and some attendees from our diocese said they were looking forward to learning more. What qualities are needed to facilitate the growing in faith of fellow parishioners? What if no one wants to share? What if members talk too much? What if I don't know everything about the Bible? Do I have to be a theologian? Does it really take much training to be a leader? Will this make any difference in the parish?

The Diocesan Core Community had discerned several months before that the September Diocesan Regional Leadership Meetings would cover the topic of Forming Small Community Leaders. The Diocesan Core Community presided at 3 meetings in English and 2 in Spanish, focusing on the Gospel of Sunday, October 3, Luke 17:5-10 (mustard seed), and what this might say to us about having faith in our leadership potential.

All throughout the meetings, as we spoke about the role of the small community leader, how they prepare before, during and after each meeting, we invited everyone to meditate on what gifts they bring to that role. Since many attendees were members of SCCs, but not necessarily serving as the leader (yet), we encouraged these folks to also focus on the gifts they bring to the community and how their gifts could be used to help the small community leader function best. Our goal was to help the attendees realize that they have the potential to be leaders in some way, even if it is not to be "the leader" of the Small Christian Community, and that they must have faith in their God-given abilities and nurture those gifts to full growth.

Our prayer table included a bowl of mustard seeds, along with a Bible, crucifix and candle, visible to all for the entire meeting. Oddly enough, many attendees had never laid eyes on a mustard seed before! We invited people to take one or more of the seeds home with them to remind them of their gifts for leadership and how necessary it is to cultivate these gifts through ongoing formation.

As one attendee left one of the meetings, she shared with me how powerful the message of the meeting was for her. Not only had she realized how necessary it was for her to "beef up" her participation level in her small community, but she was even more amazed at what it took for the leader of her SCC to serve in that role. She said that he had made it look so easy every Thursday night, welcoming her, making sure she had the right materials, setting up the environment, inviting each person to share and take responsibility for the needs of the group, arranging for refreshments, communicating the happenings of the SCC, summarizing what had been shared in the session, leading us in intercessory prayer and caring about our job and family situations. She went on further to say that because of her SCC, she has been back in the Church for a few years, serves on the Infant Baptism Team, and is now joined by her husband at Mass each week.

Creation, Communion and the Universe Story

The Pastoral Department of Small Christian Communities
Bob Moriarty S.M., Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut

On November 13, 2010, the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities is sponsoring a day long enrichment conference for small church community members, pastoral facilitators, core team members, pastors and other interested parishioners at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT. *Creation, Communion and the Universe Story* is the conference theme.

Building on last year's conference, *Communion and Community*, for which Sr. Cathy Nerney, S.S.J. served as presenter, this conference seeks to further enrich the notion of communion by engagement with the emergent universe story and its insight into the profound inter-dependence or *communion* of every particle in the universe with every other particle.

As Thomas Berry puts it: "All living things are clearly derived from a single origin. We are literally born as a community; the trees, the birds, and all living creatures are bonded together in a single community of life. This again gives us a sense that we belong. Community is not something we dream up or think would be nice. Literally, we are a single community. The planet earth is a single community of existence, and we exist in this context (**Befriending the Earth: A Theology of Reconciliation between Humans and the Earth**, p.14).

Presenters for this conference will be Yale scholars Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Founders of the Forum on Religion and Ecology, Mary Evelyn and John were major collaborators with Thomas Berry for about 40 years.

The fall issue of **Gatherings**, our periodic enrichment resource for small church communities offers preparatory reflections for this conference (and also reflections on small church communities from the summer seminarian intern who served in the department this year. **Gatherings** is accessible at www.sccquest.org

Go to brochure and Gatherings resource: http://sccquest.org/PDF/creation_LR.pdf
http://sccquest.org/PDF/Gatherings_Fall10_LR.pdf
http://www.sccquest.org/PDF/creation_LR.pdf
http://www.sccquest.org/PDF/Gatherings_Fall10_LR.pdf

Resources

RENEW International

Respond to the new English translation of the *Roman Missal* with ***Lifting Up Our Hearts***, a six-session small group faith-sharing process that will renew parishioners' spiritual life and their appreciation of the liturgy.

Through prayerful reflection on the coming changes to the people's parts of the Mass, this resource emphasizes the role of the assembly and leads Catholics into a deeper understanding of the meaning of the Mass and its significance in their lives.

Each session focuses on specific changes to the English translation of the *Roman Missal* and includes relevant Scripture passages and theological reflection. Participants pray the new texts and respond to faith-sharing questions designed to help connect the Sunday liturgy to their daily lives. Written by Dr. Peter J. Zografos, liturgical theologian and FDCL presenter. Companion music CD and other resources available. For more information or to pre-order, please visit www.renewintl.org/missal.

Contact RENEW International: 1-888-433-3221 or visit www.renewintl.org/store.

NAFSCC Board Members and E-Mail Addresses

+**Marci Blum OSF, Archdiocese of Dubuque: DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us**
(*E-Newsletter*)

+**Bob Bursi, Diocese of Trenton: rbursl@dioceseoftrenton.org**

+**Mary Carter, Diocese of Las Cruces: mcarter@jesusanswers.com**

+**Donna Ciangio O.P., dciangio@comcast.net** (*Chair*)

+**Diane Kledzik, Diocese of St. Petersburg: dmk@dosp.org** (*Membership*)

+**Michael Krejci, mkrejci@elknet.net**

+**Tanya Monsour Stager, Archdiocese of Cincinnati:**
tstager@catholiccincinnati.org (*Treasurer*)

Consultants

Fr. Pierre Goudreault, Diocese of Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec:
p.goudreault@cablevision.qc.ca

Margarita Hayes, Diocese of Las Cruces: mhayes@dioceseoflascruces.org

Visit NAFSCC website: www.nafsc.org

NAFSCC Policy

We do not give out the NAFSCC membership list to any individual or organization. We would gladly receive ads or information to be posted in the e-newsletter.

We hope you enjoyed reading this.

For additions, comments and address changes to the
NAFSCC E-Newsletter
E-mail Marci Blum OSF at DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us