



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

May 15, 2010
Volume 6, Issue 5

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"

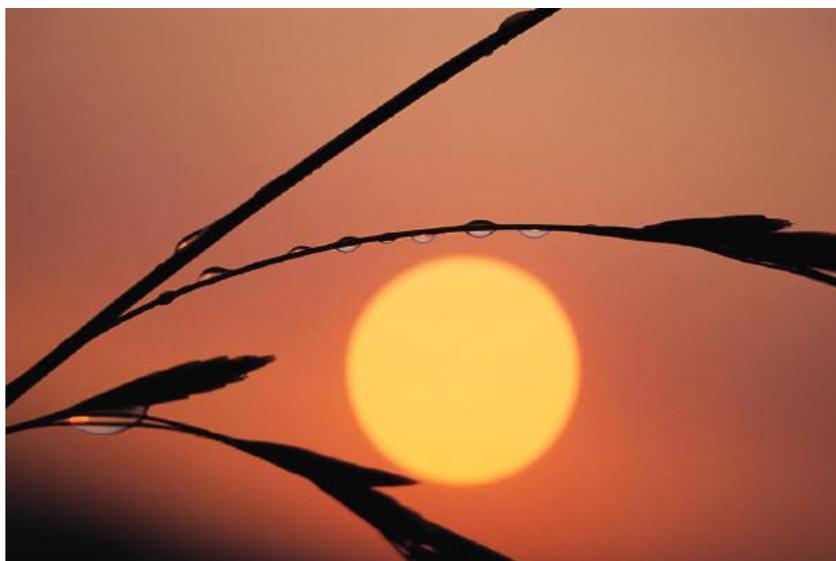
(Pope John Paul II, *The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People*, 61).

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.

Look forward to hearing from you.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

NAPRC

National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities

2010 NAPRC National Conference

July 22-24, 2010

Nativity Parish in Brandon, FL

Email: naprcoffice@ameritech.net

Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida

Put Out into Deep Water

Growing the Gospel Transforming the Parish

A hands-On Learning Experience

Transforming Parish Life!

Opening ourselves to deeper conversion!

Growing the Gospel into our lives!

Becoming Eucharist even more clearly!

through

- Small Church Communities -

- Doing Things Differently –

Nativity Parish

Brandon Florida

Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL

July 22-24, 2010

For additional information and Registration:

<http://naprc.faithweb.com/conference2010.htm>

NAFSCC

North American
Forum for Small

Christian

Communities

and

Archdiocese of

Cincinnati

SCC Formation Team

are providing a

SCC Formation Day

Saturday, March 19,
2011

Cincinnati OH

SAVE THE DATE

More information to
follow

We want to hear what you are doing with Small Christian Communities in your dioceses to share with our members. Send in your events and activities to Sr. Marci Blum to be put in the e-newsletter.

E-mail: DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us.

Talk Deeply, Be Happy

People who spend more of their day having deep discussions and less time engaging in small talk seem to be happier, said Matthias Mehl, a psychologist at the University of Arizona who published a study on the subject.

“We found this so interesting, because it could have gone the other way — it could have been, ‘Don’t worry, be happy’ — as long as you surf on the shallow level of life you’re happy, and if you go into the existential depths you’ll be unhappy,” Dr. Mehl said.

But, he proposed, substantive conversation seemed to hold the key to happiness for two main reasons: both because human beings are driven to find and create meaning in their lives, and because we are social animals who want and need to connect with other people. “By engaging in meaningful conversations, we manage to impose meaning on an otherwise pretty chaotic world,” Dr. Mehl said. “And interpersonally, as you find this meaning, you bond with your interactive partner, and we know that interpersonal connection and integration is a core fundamental foundation of happiness.” You can read the full article at

http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/17/talk-deeply-be-happy/?utm_source=Ode+Newsletters&utm_campaign=5aafef19bb-daily-rss&utm_medium=email.

Living Eucharist: Gathered, Nourished, Sent

This is the title of the Pastoral Letter written by Bishop Robert N. Lynch of the Diocese of St. Petersburg that also became the theme of a three year initiative and three years of diocesan conferences on the themes of Gathered, Nourished and Sent. This past April 30 and May 1, the first conference, SENT, brought together nearly 3,000 adults and youth at the Tampa Convention Center for the purpose of focusing on how the Eucharist sends us into the world to be Christ to others. Rev. Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, and Rev. J-Glenn Murray, SJ, provided general sessions. The breakout sessions and vendors included various offerings of how to be leaven to others. Brother Robert Moriarty, S.M., NAFSCC member and Director of the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities for the Archdiocese of Hartford, delivered two presentations entitled: *Sent to Be Parish as a Community of Communities* and *Moving Small Christian Communities to Mission*. To find out more about the Living Eucharist Initiative and Conferences in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, go to www.dosp.org or www.livingeucharist.org.

A Spring Delight – Quest Writers Appreciation Luncheon

In conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Beginnings of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Bro. Bob Moriarty, S.M. hosted an appreciation luncheon on May 5, 2010 especially for those who have written for **Quest** and **Summer Reflections** over the years.

More than 120 people – men and women, married and single, religious, deacons and priests have written for these reflection booklets. About 80 writers, artists and **MusicQuest** producers were on hand. Pat Linehan, the first director of the office and the initiator of the reflection booklets was there to recall the beginnings. Sr. Joan Bernier, S.N.D., the initiator of the **Summer Reflections** booklet and a writer and coordinator for it until just last year was on hand for the festivities as well. Sr. Joan is now dealing with Alzheimer's disease, but she was very much present. Present staff members (Sandy Miller, Dolka Bianchi, Mary Fitzpatrick and Lynne Romano) and former staff members (Fran O'Brien, Linda Wowak and Linda Pellino) were also part of the celebration.

A PowerPoint slide show of some of the artwork from both **Summer Reflections** and **Quest** surprised Fr. John McHugh, **Quest** artist over the years as an introduction to his reflections about doing art for **Quest**. Art as "a trap for meditation" was the theme he addressed. The Department for Small Christian Communities has worked with the same printer for these 25 years. So, Harry and Dan Davidson of the Pyne-Davidson Printing Company spoke of their pleasure printing the booklets, a sharp contrast, they noted, to the usual commercial material they print. And last, but not least, Archbishop Henry Mansell was on hand to express his gratitude for the generosity of those who have prepared, produced and distributed **Quest**, **Summer Reflections** and **MusicQuest** over the years.

In addition to serving as publications assistant, Lynne Romano is an accomplished master pastry chef. She worked with the St. Thomas Seminary chef, Gordon Losey, to prepare the dessert for the luncheon. She also made a standing dark chocolate centerpiece on which **Quest** was lettered in white chocolate. It was surrounded by her own biscotti and strawberries dipped in chocolate. And this was not the dessert. The dessert was *Spring Delight*, a key lime curd with fresh raspberry sauce, topped with whipped cream, a raspberry and mint leaves. As a garnish for the plate, she made a 3 inch dark chocolate medallion in which a white chocolate **Q** was embedded. What a sight it all was! What a taste! It was a *delight*! Now for those who think this extravagant, remember: May 5 was the 32nd day of Easter. And we must celebrate all 50 days!

A sample of the evaluative reflections received from small church community members who use **Quest** were read by a number of the luncheon attendees between the entree and the dessert. Following dessert, several of the writers shared a memory or reflection about their experience writing for the booklets. And then, in addition to his own reflections on the experience of working with the writing teams over the years, Bro. Bob Moriarty shared two anecdotes that capture something of the impact the booklets have had on people, one charming, the other profound.

The first is quite recent. As part of his service last year as a summer intern in the department, one of the seminarians served on the writing team for the spring 2010 **Quest** booklet. He wrote for the Third Sunday of Easter. The gospel has the disciples fishing and catching nothing through the night. In the morning, Jesus calls to them from the shore and has them move the nets to the other side of the boat, whereupon they gather a huge catch. Part of the seminarian's commentary reflected on how we can sometimes get stuck in neutral, just doing the same thing in the same old way. He suggested that we need to listen for how Christ might be calling us to move our nets to the other side of the boat, to do things in a new way. A simple thought, simply expressed. It turns out that the seminarian was to be at his home parish for that Third Sunday of Easter. His pastor had him do a spoken version of his commentary at the Masses that weekend. After one of the Sunday Masses, an eight year old boy came up to him after Mass and said to him, "I've been afraid to take the training wheels off my bike, but after what you said at Mass, I'm going home and take them off today." Charming, indeed, and age appropriate.

The other anecdote is something else. For a while last year, the department had on board an absolutely crackerjack publications assistant and graphic designer in his early 30s. He did all of the page layout for **Quest**, which included incorporating several rounds of Bro. Bob's editing changes. In short, he worked closely with the text. After six months, he left the office for another position. This fellow had a general Christian background, but was not connected to any church. On his last day in the office, he said to one of the members of the staff, "I just want you all to know that working on **Quest** has made a believer out of me."

Sr. Miriam Therese Winter, M.M.S., theologian at Hartford Seminary completed the festivities, by leading the luncheon guests in the singing of one of her own much appreciated compositions, "*Sing of a Blessing.*"

The smiles and joy on the faces of all those who attended told the whole story. It has been and continues to be a deeply satisfying experience for all those who work on **Quest**, **Summer Reflections** and **MusicQuest** to know that what we are doing for parishes and small church communities around the country, and indeed, around the world is making a real difference in people's lives and faith.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

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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