



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

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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.

Put Out into Deep Water
Growing the Gospel - Transforming the Parish
The 2010 NAPRC conference

By Donna Ciangio, OP
Chair, NAFSCC

The NAPRC held its annual conference July 22-24 at Nativity Parish in Brandon, Florida. Nativity parish is a large vibrant parish with numerous English and Spanish small communities.

Our NAFSCC organization was a supporter of the conference. Diane Kledzik, our board membership coordinator, was the diocesan organizer with Vicki Hawkins, a member of NAFSCC, the SCC advisory Board (Diocese of St. Petersburg) and Faith Formation Director at Nativity Parish. Also attending was Tanya Stager (NAFSCC treasurer) from Cincinnati and Donna Ciangio, OP, (NAFSCC chair) Director of Church Leadership Consultation. These board members contributed workshops at the conference.

Tanya and Fr. John Krumm (from the NAPRC board) presented a workshop entitled "*Getting Started and Recruitment.*" Diane presented "*Small Church Communities: So What: Moving Us to Mission*" and Donna addressed "*Evaluating Small Communities – How is It Going? What Could Make It Better?*"

Other NAFSCC members also presented workshops: Sr. Nancy Fischer, CSJ and Kathy Higgins from Erie, PA and Br. Bob Moriarty, SM of Hartford.

Major presenters were Fr. Art Baranowski, Fr. Bill Thaden, Br. Bob Moriarty, and Theresa Doyle from the NAPRC Board. The focus of the conference was on making the Gospel more alive for people by creating ways to have them interact with the Word and with others. This not only helps people take the Word into their lives personally by reflecting with others in parish ministries and organizations but promotes deeper relationships with people joined together in faith.

Fr. Art spoke about the possibilities for vibrant parish communities which focus on regular faith reflection with others. The Gospel must be central to our lives personally and as a community. Deeper community relationships engage people more fully in the mission of Christ.

The conference attracted over one hundred participants each day. Many local people attended and left excited and hopeful with renewed energy and creative ideas for forming and developing their small communities.

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

Meeting Christ in Prayer – An 8-Week
Life-Enriching Experience

Based on

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius
By John E. Sassani and Mary Ann McLaughlin

Here is a prayer experience wherein the subtitle of the book really lives up to its billing. The central pieces of the Exercises are presented with guidelines for prayer drawing upon *lectio divina* and guided imagination. The Daily Examination of Conscience is also integral to the process. The daily exercises are formatted for ease of the "retreatant" with pointers for prayer, meditations, journaling and review. Although suited to an individual, participating as a group is the design and opens the way for enriching faith sharing. The Leader's Guide is also well conceived and allows any one with experience in the Exercises to be comfortable in their role. I can say I am *Meeting Christ in Prayer* personally and communally. I find it remarkable that the 30-Day Exercises of St. Ignatius are compressed so well within the eight weeks. The publication is well suited for starting or veteran faith sharing and bible groups.

Review by Bob Bursley, Coordinator, Small Christian Community Ministry, Office of Catechesis, Diocese of Trenton. Email:

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or 609-406-7400 x5623

published by Loyola Press, 2008.

Contact: www.loyolapress.com or 800-621-1008.



Fr. John Krumm, NAPRC Board member, with Tanya Stager, NAFSCC Board member at NAPRC Conference.

Diane Kledzik, NAFSCC Board member, presents at the NAPRC Conference in Florida.



“Put Out into Deep Water”

By Tanya Stager, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

I had the opportunity to go to Tampa, Florida for the 2010 NAPRC Conference, “Put Out into Deep Water”. This is always a good opportunity to meet with others and share our experiences of Small Christian Communities.

At the conference we heard from members of the board of NAPRC, Rev. Art Baranowski, Bro. Bob Moriarty, and Rev. Bill Thaden. The value of SCCs as helping persons become Church and forming persons so that Jesus is centered in their lives was discussed. The four elements of Being Church are the same four needs of a small church community, being formed by the Word, Celebrating or praying together, being community and service.

We had the opportunity to hear a novel approach to Small Church Communities from Fr. Baranowski. In his vision SCCs are dedicated to the Gospel. A community gathers, welcomes, partakes in the prayer to have “God reveal yourself to me”. Listens to the Gospel, repeats the Gospel saying aloud what word or phrase struck you. Give out copies of the Gospel for each to read; responding to what attracts you in the Gospel, What causes resistance in you, do you know why? The agenda of a small church community is preparing for Mass. Evaluation is based on how well prepared each person is for Mass and Eucharist. Facilitators for groups are persons of the church, who know church problems and issues but believe in the church. Facilitators are selected, training and meet regularly with the Pastor of the Parish.

Other concepts that were discussed were the need to re-image or restructure church to be more effective in today’s cultural environment and the vital role SCCs can have in each parish. There were also opportunities to participate in workshops such as deepening prayer experiences in SCCs, forming good questions, evaluating small communities, cultural diversity, pastoral facilitators, and getting started and recruitment.

Communities Invited to Respond to Micah's Challenge

By Steve Valenzuela, Director of Small Faith Communities
Diocese of San Bernardino, CA

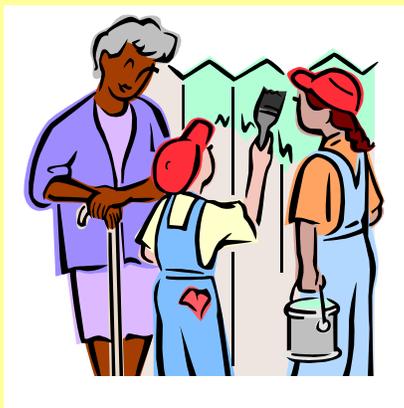
In the 8th century before the birth of Christ, the rural prophet of Israel Micah proclaimed, "this is what God asks of you; only this, to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humble with your God" (6:8).

Micah's words then and now speak for those who have no voice in the face of oppression. In Micah's day, it was the poor farmers and their families who eked out a humble existence 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem being abused by the rich landowners. Today our church speaks like Micah for those who are oppressed such as the unborn and the undocumented, the poor, the prisoner and the homeless. As members of Small Faith Communities, as baptized Christians, we too are called to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly.

Beginning with the August quarterly mailing of the newsletter packet, a new monthly original faith sharing resource called Micah's Challenge focusing on the Catholic social teaching is included. The resource is being developed in collaboration with the diocesan offices of Social Concerns and Pro-life within the newly named Department of Life, Dignity, Justice, Outreach and Advocacy. The resource will include a quote from one of the US Bishops documents and a personal reflection with a sharing question and suggestion for action.

The resource is being sent as a single sheet reproducible, one side in English and the other in Spanish, three monthly editions at a time. We hope all community facilitators will either use the resource as part of their gatherings with their communities and/or copy and distribute it among community members for their own personal reflection and prayer. Micah's Challenge is not meant to replace completely whatever resource a community is currently using but rather as a supplement. It is not a complete small faith community process.

The resource is designed to help members of Small Communities and other groups from the parish to reflect on Catholic Social teaching in preparation for upcoming diocesan observance called Life and Dignity Sunday in 2011.



(See attachment in pdf)

A Comunidades se les Invita a Responder al Reto que nos Presenta Miqueas

Escrito por Steve Valenzuela, Director, Pequeñas Comunidades de Fe
Diócesis de San Bernardino

En el 8vo siglo antes del nacimiento de Cristo, un profeta rural de Israel llamado Miqueas proclamo, "ya se te ha dicho, hombre, lo que es bueno y lo que es Señor te exige: Tan sólo que practiques la justicia, que sepas amas y te portes humildemente con tu Dios." (6:8).

Las palabras de Miqueas, antes y hoy en día, hablan por los que no tienen voz en el rostro de la opresión. En los tiempos de Miqueas, eran los campesinos pobres y sus familias quienes tenían que sostener con dificultad una existencia humilde 25 millas al sur de Jerusalén, siendo abusados por los dueños ricos. Hoy en día nuestra Iglesia habla como lo hizo Miqueas por los que son oprimidos, los que aun no han nacido, los indocumentados, los pobres, los encarcelados y los desamparados. Como miembros de Pequeñas Comunidades de Fe, como Cristianos bautizados, también somos llamados a practicar la justicia, amar y caminar humildemente.

Comenzando con este paquete del boletín, un nuevo recurso de cada mes para compartir la fe titulado El Reto que nos Presenta Miqueas enfocado en utilizando la Doctrina Social Católica será incluido. El material es desarrollado en colaboración con las oficinas diocesanas de Pastoral Social y Pro-Vida que pertenecen al recientemente nombrado Departamento de Vida, Dignidad y Justicia. El material incluyera una cita del documento de los Obispos Estadounidenses y una reflexión personal, pregunta para compartir la fe y una sugerencia de acción. El recurso es de una sola pagina, reproducible, un lado en Ingles y el otro en Español, ediciones para tres meses serán enviados a la vez. Esperamos que los animadores de las comunidades utilicen este material como parte de sus reuniones con las comunidades y/o lo distribuyan entre otros miembros de la comunidad para el uso personal de reflexión y oración. El Reto que nos Presenta Miqueas no es para reemplazar cualquier material que esta utilizando actualmente la comunidad, es simplemente un suplemento. No es un proceso completo de pequeñas comunidades.

El recurso esta diseñado para ayudar a miembros de Pequeñas Comunidades y otros grupos parroquiales a reflexionar sobre la Doctrina Social Católica en preparación para la próxima observancia diocesana llamado Domingo de Vida y Dignidad en el año 2011.



Resources

RENEW International

Scenes from a Parish: a documentary film covering four years in the “life” of a multicultural parish outside of Boston that movingly covers the themes of compassion, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger. RENEW has worked with the filmmaker to create a special DVD edition of the film with a companion faith-sharing guide in English and Spanish.

Lifting Up Our Hearts: a six-week small group faith-sharing resource that explores the new translation of the Roman Missal. Its goal is to help parishioners gain an increased understanding of the liturgy as it familiarizes them with the changes with the people’s parts of the Mass, leading to more full and active participation.

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

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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