



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

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

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

www.nafsc.org

E-Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3
January 15, 2006



Blessings in 2006!

The NAFSCC E-Newsletters sent bi-monthly to members

Contents:

1. News and Ideas
2. Upcoming Events
3. Share Your Views
4. Good News Column

1. News and Ideas

NAFSCC Membership Meeting at NAICE Convention

NAFSCC Board will be hosting the annual membership meeting during the NAICE Convention. Mark your calendars to attend. **NAICE (North American Institute for Catholic Evangelization) Conference is July 12-16, 2006, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. Register through the USCCB web site Please register ASAP through your diocese or organization and indicate that you belong to NAFSCC in the appropriate spot.**

NAFSCC membership meeting is scheduled for July 16 beginning with 8:00 a.m. breakfast. Meeting will be from 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon at Xavier University in Cincinnati. See attachments in pdf format. One attachment is the working agenda and the other is the brochure with registration form. Send registration to Sr. Patricia Froning, Diocese of Owensboro: pat.froning@pastoral.org.

2. Upcoming Events

NCCL Convention April 30-May 4, 2006 at the O'Hare Hyatt Regency, Chicago, Illinois

NAICE (North American Institute for Catholic Evangelization) Conference July 12-16, 2006, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

NAFSCC Membership Meeting July 16, 2006, 8 a.m.–12:00 noon, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

3. Share Your Views

What's Going On with SCCs?

If you have any news about you are doing with Small Christian Communities, contact NAFSCC “web person,” Carlette Chordas, Diocese of Youngstown: cchordas@youngstowndiocese.org. She will put your ideas and activities on the NAFSCC website: www.nafsc.org.

4. Good News Column

Diocese of Baton Rouge

The Diocese of Baton Rouge is a recent member of NAFSCC. Many of our parishes have had small faith sharing groups for many years. I believe that they were an outcome of RENEW twenty some years ago.

Our Diocese has just completed Season I of RENEW. Many want to keep the groups going in between Seasons. RENEW has generated a strong desire to form small faith communities within a parish.

On January 5th, Father Bruce Nieli, CSP will be presenter for our RENEW Morning of Reflection. He will speak on the spirituality of Small Faith Communities and its Healthy Effect on a Parish Community.

Sr. Priscilla Lemire, RJM
Office of Evangelization
PO Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania

I have attached a copy of our Parish Council Update on what's going on with Small Christian Communities at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Orefield, PA, part of the Allentown Diocese. The first page is a description of Faith Alive Small Christian Communities at our parish, and the second page lists activities that we have held or plan to hold in 2006. I've also attached a page describing the activities of the Happy Boomba Band.

We are excited about Small Christian Communities here at St. Joe's -our Core Committee feels challenged to do something in future to excite non-participants to join groups and thus grow the SCC concept at our parish. We've been holding our own, and our core committee has grown, but growth of our SCCs is our biggest challenge.

Betty Belnoski
St. Joseph The Worker Parish
Orefield, Pennsylvania 18069

Faith Alive is a program of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) at St. Joseph The Worker Church. These small groups of 6 to 12 people, originally formed during the RENEW 2000 program, gather together on a regular basis to learn more about

their faith and to grow closer to their fellow parishioners.

When RENEW ended, members of the small groups wanted to continue to meet because of the many benefits they derived from being part of a small, intimate Christian community. Thus “Faith Alive” was born.

Groups meet monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly, at their discretion, for an hour to ninety minutes, at the church, school, or in member’s homes. They choose their own topics for discussion from a wide variety of choices and available resource materials. They:

- Quickly become part of a loving community.
- Establish warm and lasting relationships with fellow-Catholics in a comfortable setting.
- Learn about the faith of others as members share their own practices and beliefs.
- Learn from resource materials, which provide structure, guidance, and education.
- Learn directly from Sacred Scripture.
- Are guaranteed compassion, confidentiality, and caring from members of their group.
- Choose from a variety of topics such as Family Issues, Parenting, Strengthening your Marriage, Personal Growth, Learning about your Catholic Faith, How to Pray, How to Read the Bible, etc.
- Experience a growing enthusiasm for their own Catholic faith.
- Deepen their prayer life and draw closer to God
- Lovingly move beyond their groups in service and evangelization to others.

As part of Faith Alive’s own commitment to service and evangelization to others, a program of adult faith formation seminars and speakers called “Faith Alive Presents” has been developed. For 2006 there are two major Faith Alive Presents events in the planning stages –the first will be a Lenten Program and the second an Advent Program.

Those of us who have participated in Small Christian Communities have reaped more rewards than we can begin to enumerate. We welcome you to join us and experience the joy of participation in a Faith Alive SCC.

During 2005 Faith Alive presented a Video Lenten Series called Feast of Faith with speaker Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio. This four-part series was presented in

one-hour morning and afternoon sessions during four Thursdays in Lent. Babysitting services and refreshments were provided. This program was well-attended for both the morning and evening sessions right through the four Thursdays.

- During 2005 our existing Small Christian Communities continued to gather together to learn more about our faith and grow closer to one another. Our numbers have stayed consistent with the number of people who participated during RENEW 2000, which is a great blessing.
- The Happy Boomba Band, a group which came out of one of our SCCs, has grown and flourished and continues to entertain in Nursing Homes and Hospitals on a regular basis. In 2005, the Band was once again asked to be the entertainment for the Sister's Appreciation Luncheon at the Day's Inn. The Band has played on numerous occasions for residents of Mosser Nursing Home, Cedarbrook, Whitehall Manor, Holy Family Manor, Northampton Village, Emmaus Village, The Willows in Macungie, and Sacred Heart Hospital. Twelve people participate on a regular basis and new members are always welcome.
- Small Christian Community members are encouraged to move beyond their groups in service and evangelization to others. As part of Faith Alive's own commitment to service and evangelization, a program of adult faith formation seminars and speakers for all members of the St. Joseph's Community has been developed. This program is called "Faith Alive Presents."
- Two major Faith Alive Presents programs for the year 2006 are in the planning stages. The first is a Lenten Video Program similar to last year's Feast of Faith Program. The speaker is again Dr. D'Ambrosio speaking on the topic "I Believe: The Heart of the Catholic Faith."
- The second program Faith Alive would like to present is a three day Advent Mission by Father Larry Richards, the dynamic priest and speaker from Erie, Pennsylvania, who many know from his tapes and CDs distributed by The Mary Foundation. We believe this Mission will help us to focus on the spirituality and holiness of the Christmas Season amidst a culture that focuses on the materialistic side.

Invitation Extended

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: DBQCFL/AF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us.

NAFSCC Board Members and E-Mail Addresses:

Sr. Marci Blum, Archdiocese of Dubuque: DBQCFL/AF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us

Carlette Chordas, Diocese of Youngstown: cchordas@youngstowndiocese.org

Sr. Donna Ciangio, National Pastoral Life Center: dciangio@nplc.org

Sr. Patricia Froning, Diocese of Owensboro: pat.froning@pastoral.org

Rev. Pierre Goudreault, Diocese of Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec:

p.goudreault@cablevision.qc.ca

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

Ms. Diane Kledzik, Diocese of St. Petersburg: dmk@dosp.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 DBQCFL/AF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us