



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

**E-Newsletter**  
Board Update



*Our First Webinar!*

**Meet and Greet Webinar**

**Hosts: Sr. Donna L. Ciangio, OP and Br. Bob Moriarty, SM**  
**June 7, 2011**



**Participants and Topics**

Our first webinar joined 11 participants from California, Iowa, New Jersey, Florida, Ohio, New Mexico and Connecticut. We had a lively discussion on what members are doing with SCC development in their dioceses or parishes, special SCC initiatives and recommended resources. There were a few glitches with microphones but we will overcome that for next time. Our Webinar Coordinator, Mary Carter, will work with all registrant who need assistance in using the Go To Meeting format before the next webinar. Contact Mary at [mcarter@jesusanswers.com](mailto:mcarter@jesusanswers.com)

**Some Initiatives and Resources**

Some of the resources being used in dioceses are:

**Las Cruces, NM**

- SCCs are thriving in rural areas of the diocese
- San Patricio Retreat Center will be offering one day retreats and training for SCCs in English and Spanish so that people can get to meet people from other SCCs

**Hartford, CT**

**Quest**, a resource that many use across the country and beyond, is working on an updated format using an encounter model. The hope is that people will both “hear the Lord’s Gospel and hear the Gospel’s Lord” in a personal, transforming way. 56 SCCs in 16 states have been previewing the material to see how it flows.

**Cincinnati, OH**

A very popular resource is a lectio divina format which parishes can download from the website of the archdiocese. It can be found on under the Evangelization and Catechesis page.

[www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis). Look on the page for Where Two or Three are Gathered. You will see resources for Family and Home, Parish Meetings, and Spanish Resource.

**St. Anthony Parish, Dubuque, IA**

Very active with many types of SCCs. The groups meet quarterly to for faith reflection, to pray together, learn and exchange ideas.

### **St. Petersburg, FL**

Fr. Eamon Tobin of Ascension parish in Melbourne, Florida (Diocese of Orlando), writes a faith sharing resource each week. It is available at [www.ascensionparish.org](http://www.ascensionparish.org)

St. Petersburg parishes will be using *Lifting Up Our Hearts* in the fall and the Diocesan Core Community will be training Small Community Leaders.

### **St. Joseph Parish, Oradell, NJ**

Fr. Thomas Iwanowski writes Looking to Sunday, a weekly reflection on the coming Sunday's Gospel. Check out <http://www.lookingtosunday.com/>

### **St. Rose of Lima Parish Short Hills, NJ**

Sr. Sandra DeMasi, SSJ and Sr. Donna Ciangio, OP prepare RCIA resources for adults and children that parishes around the country access weekly. For more information contact Sr. Sandy at [demasissj@comcast.net](mailto:demasissj@comcast.net).

### **Open Our Hearts – A Small Group Guide for an Active Lent**

Sr. Donna Ciangio, OP and Fr. Thomas Iwanowski, authors of a Lenten series (Years A, B, C) for Ave Maria Press, have just finished the 2012 book. It contains reflection material on the Sunday Gospel as well as weekday meditations and simple soup recipes! It was a sellout two years in a row. For a webinar on SCCs by these two authors, go to our website, [www.nafsc.org](http://www.nafsc.org) and click on Sample Resources and find the webinar entitled *Open Our Hearts: Exploring the Spiritual Riches of Lent*. The webinar focuses on SCCs rather than Lent only.

### **Let's Do This Again!**

Participants suggested that we aim to do **Meet and Greet Webinars** (members' networking webinars) several times a year. Some comments to evaluate the webinar:

- Networking helps us to introduce and re-introduce new ideas for SCCs.
- It is like being at a conference! Thank you!!
- We can and need to affirm each other – what a great way to do it!
- Affirms what we have been doing.
- We welcome this and want it to continue – gives a richer experience.
- We need to reach out to others in dioceses to let them know what is happening.
- Including parishes will be even richer and more exciting!

### **The Next Meet and Greet Webinar - September 14, 2011**

The next webinar will be in September 14 so mark your calendars. Following that will be Bob Moriarty's webinar entitled:

**Prayer and Faith Sharing at Parish Meetings**  
**Wednesday, September 21 at 3:00 PM EDT**

Thanks to all who participated and see everyone at the next networking webinar and the topical ones.

**Please send any topics that you would like to discuss or suggest  
for a future webinar to [nafsc@gmail.com](mailto:nafsc@gmail.com).**

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## The New NAFSCC Website

We are delighted with our new website. It is a lively design, easy to work with and full of information, plus, it has a members' only access area. In that area we have a list of speakers and topics, Board reports, a place for storing webinars and other presentations, links to diocesan resource lists, and upcoming webinars. As we move forward, we would like to add YOUR presentations, articles, ideas and photos. You can send to our technology coordinator, Heath Winborn at [nafsc@gmail.com](mailto:nafsc@gmail.com).

### *We want to hear from you:*

What do you think about the website? What will you contribute? What webinar topics would be most useful for your ministry? Please send your answers to [nafsc@gmail.com](mailto:nafsc@gmail.com).

## Membership Renewal

It's time for our membership and renewal drive. Letters have gone out to bishops in the US and Canada by USPS and to members through email. You can also download a renewal form on our website under JOIN NAFSCC.

### Expanding Membership

We are expanding our membership to include **parish leaders** who work with SCCs, adult faith formation, RCIA, evangelization and more. This will provide a larger base for networking, training and discussion. We are excited about this new development! Already we had a parish coordinator of adult faith formation and SCCs on our call yesterday. She is working with a great number of SCCs in the parish and wonderful things are happening.

**Please send the flyer out to your parishes and invite the appropriate parish staff persons to be a part of this enlarging network!**



*to grow SCCs in parishes and dioceses in North America!*