



NAFSCC
North American
Forum For
SMALL
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITIES

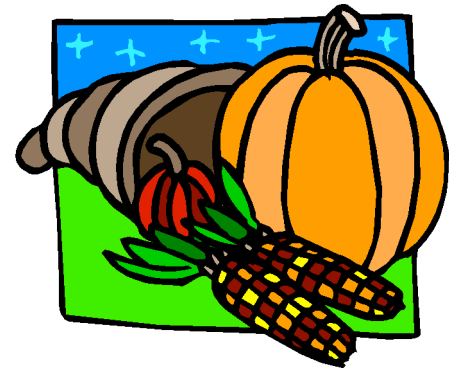
FNPCC
Foro Norteamericano
Para
LAS PEQUEÑAS
COMUNIDADES
CRISTIANAS

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Le Forum nord-américain
pour
LES PETITES
COMMUNAUTÉS
DE FOI

www.nafsc.org

E-Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2
November 15, 2005



The NAFSCC E-Newsletters sent bi-monthly to members

Contents:

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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
No payment is due until January. Confirmations may not come out until
January. Please register ASAP through your diocese or organization and
indicate that you belong to NAFSCC in the appropriate spot.

News from the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities

The fall issue of **Gatherings**, a periodic formation resource of the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities (Archdiocese of Hartford), is available presently on-line on the department's website: www.sccquest.org.

Features in this issue include 1.) **Let's Meet: *Rebuilding Community*** (Part I of a two part interview with Robert Putnam, author of **Bowling Alone: *The Collapse and Revival of American Community*** and **Better Together: *Restoring the American Community***. Part II will appear in the January, 2006 issue of **Gatherings**; 2.) An overview/review by Bro. Bob Moriarty, S.M. of the newly published **Small Christian Communities Today: *Capturing the New Moment***, edited by Joseph Healey, M.M. and Jeanne Hinton.

RUSHING WATER / FLOWING COMPASSION

Kathleen Cuneo
Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
Office of Religious Education
Small Christian Communities

Greetings from the lazy flowing bayous of southeast/west Louisiana and the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

Hurricane Katrina, August 29, 2005, roared across the Gulf of Mexico and, almost at the last hour, made its anticipated turn to the northeast. This slight turn spared our diocese (except for Grand Isle) and our civil parishes of Terrebonne and Lafourche from a direct impact. We were on the outer bands of this immense hurricane and, although we had wind and water damage, it was not comparable to the destruction in New Orleans and its surrounding areas. A strange twist of events occurred with this hurricane, in that evacuees from the affected areas poured into Houma, Thibodaux and other small coastal cities. This sudden in pouring of evacuees called for an equally sudden response to provide shelter, food, clothing, supplies and other immediate needs.

Our Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux was in the beginning phase of instituting a program entitled “Matthew 25” – a disaster response program based on the Scripture passage from Matthew 25:35-36. Many of our church parishes had already had a meeting to setup a team leader and coordinators to handle the various areas of need that follow such destructive events. Little did we know that we would be called into action so soon and on such an immense scale. Katrina came in and we, as a Christian community, went out to meet the needs. Initially, this response was as individuals or through our parish church.

Our diocesan Pastoral Center was closed the week after Katrina due to a lack of electricity. Once the Pastoral Center was re-opened, our individual and parish efforts were then coordinated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

Under the guidance of Catholic Social Services, the areas of need were better-identified and individual gifts and talents were linked to those needs. Individuals were then sent out to meet the specific needs. This was a more organized approach and, a welcomed one, after a week of almost utter shock that such a disaster had finally occurred after speculation on it for decades. I would be remiss to overlook giving credit to the immense and immediate response of our civil parishes and parish government leaders, as well as to the numerous Protestant churches in our community. It was a tremendous compassionate response to meet the needs of human tragedy.

After things seemed to settle down a bit we began having follow-up meetings to evaluate the response to the “Matthew 25” program. These were facilitated by Sister Celeste Cotter, C.S.J., Director of Catholic Relief Services and Associate Director for Parish Social Ministry. We also received our identifying turquoise blue tee shirt with the lettering, “Matthew 25” Response Team, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux on the back and Catholic Social Services on the left upper front of the shirt. Again, little did we know that we would be donning these shirts so soon in the aftermath of Katrina.

Hurricane Rita came roaring into the Gulf of Mexico three weeks after Katrina and headed for the Louisiana/Texas border – massive destruction followed her path. Once again, we were on the outer bands of this fierce hurricane and were spared a direct impact. One of our foremost concerns with an approaching hurricane, and during its mighty display of power, is in regards to the levee systems that surround our bayou communities. This constant concern evolved into an emergency evacuation of people living in the southern portion of Terrebonne parish. A 200-

foot break in a major levee and minor breeches in others opened pathways for water to rush into all of our bayou communities. The estimated number of homes flooded with two to four feet of water and thick black mud stirred up from the bottom of lakes and bayous is 10,000. Once again, an immediate response went into action as shelters that had closed were re-opened and others in operation prepared for an influx of “local” evacuees.

We donned our turquoise blue “Matthew 25” tee shirts and fanned out into the community to meet the immediate needs of the people in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. This effect of Hurricane Rita did not receive national media attention, however, we responded to the call of the Gospel to continue to care for others and, now, to meet the needs of our own community members.

I do not think that any of our SCCs and Faith Sharing Groups responded as a small unit to this disaster, however, I do know that the larger Christian community responded with abundant compassion, generosity, time, money, pastoral and emotional care and support.

The call of the Gospel and the call of the Church to mission was heard and heeded: “I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me ... what you did for one of these least of my brethren, you did for me...”
Matthew 25:35-36; 40b.

2. Upcoming Events

National Pastoral Life Center Annual Parish Convention

Spirituality and the Parish, Keynote: Ron Rolheiser, OMI Conference
November 17-19, 2005, Radisson Hotel, Ft. Worth, Texas

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

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

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-newslette. E-mail: DBQCFL/AF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us.

5. Resources

Guide d'animation Parole et vie

for a Small Faith Sharing Group

Course of Advent 2005



Volume 3, numéro 1

Parole et vie

Guide d'animation
Petit groupe de partage de foi

Parcours advent 2005
Année liturgique B

The editorial team informs you that the *Guide d'animation Parole et vie* is now on sale for the people who wish to take part of the course of the Advent 2005 in a *Small faith sharing group*. This guide is prepared at the Paroisse Sainte-Trinite, Rouyn-Noranda diocese, Québec. It presents a course of five meetings for the French speaking *Small faith sharing groups*. Each member of a group gets the guide which supports the animation and the personal reflection.

A *Small faith sharing group*, formed from three to ten people, allows to meet at home to look further into its experiments of life in the light of the Sunday Gospel. The greeting of others, the common prayer, the faith sharing, the preparation for Christmas and the actions in the daily life are activities suggested by the *Guide d'animation Parole et vie*.

One can get the *Guide d'animation Parole et vie* at the cost of 3\$/unit near :
Madame Hélène Girard
Librairie diocésaine de Rouyn-Noranda
515, avenue Cuddihy
Rouyn-Noranda (Québec) J9X 4C5

Téléphone : (819) 764-4660
Télécopieur : (819) 764-3972
helene.libr@cablevision.qc.ca

Pierre Goudreault, prêtre
Directeur du *Guide d'animation Parole et vie*
Paroisse Sainte-Trinité, diocèse de Rouyn-Noranda, Québec

Guide d'animation Parole et vie
pour un petit groupe de partage de foi
parcours advent 2005



Volume 3, numéro 1

Parole et vie

Guide d'animation
Petit groupe de partage de foi

Parcours advent 2005
Année liturgique B

L'équipe de rédaction vous informe

que le *Guide*

d'animation Parole et vie est maintenant en vente pour les personnes qui désirent vivre le parcours de l'avent 2005 dans un petit groupe de partage de foi. Ce guide est préparé à la Paroisse Sainte-Trinité, diocèse de Rouyn-Noranda, Québec. Il présente un parcours de cinq rencontres. Chaque membre d'un groupe se procure le guide afin de mieux participer aux échanges.

Un petit groupe de partage de foi, formé de trois à dix personnes, permet de se réunir à la maison pour approfondir ses expériences de vie à la lumière de l'évangile du dimanche. L'accueil des autres, la prière commune, le partage de foi, la préparation à la fête de Noël et les actions dans le quotidien sont autant d'activités proposées dans le *Guide d'animation Parole et vie*.

On peut se procurer le *Guide d'animation Parole et vie* au coût de 3\$/unité auprès de :

Madame Hélène Girard
Librairie diocésaine de Rouyn-Noranda

515, avenue Cuddihy
Rouyn-Noranda (Québec) J9X 4C5
Téléphone : (819) 764-4660
Télécopieur : (819) 764-3972

Pierre Goudreault, prêtre
Directeur du *Guide d'animation Parole et vie*
Paroisse Sainte-Trinité, diocèse de Rouyn-Noranda, Québec

Daily Reflections for Advent 2005
Prepare the Way
St. Anthony Messenger Press

Kathy Coffey

Kathy Coffey's *Daily Reflections for Advent 2005: Prepare the Way* includes a brief yet applicable reflection, prayer, question to ponder and a positive action step that directly relates to the Scripture reading for each day of Advent. Kathy Coffey's reflections are pithy, yet full of practical and meaningful ways to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. She even asks the reader to contemplate current events and social justice issues such as migration and homelessness. Her reflections call us not only to reflect on the coming of Christ two thousand years ago, but how the coming of Christ matters to us in this ever-changing, tumultuous present day.

0-86716-585-5

Price: \$2.95

Breaking Open the Lectionary Cycle B
Lectionary readings in their Biblical Context for RCIA,
Faith Sharing Groups, and Lectors

Margaret Nutting Ralph

Paulist Press, 2005

Price: \$18.95

ISBN 0-8091-4289-9

Disciples on the Journey Lent 2006

Disciples on the Journey Lent 2006 is a faith-sharing booklet for adults, teens and families, which covers the **six weeks of Lent Cycle B and the Scrutiny Sundays (3,4,5) for Cycle A.** It will also include an article pertaining to the reason for using the Cycle A readings...

All for the low price of \$ 35.00 per pack of 10 booklets. Available in English and Spanish. For more information you can e-mail or call toll free 1-866-590-3688. See pdf attachment for the ad.

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