

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

**E-Newsletter**  
**Board Update**

[www.nafsc.org](http://www.nafsc.org)

October 25, 2011

Heart and Hearth of the Home series recently presented

By Mary Carter

**Heart and Hearth of the home recently presented, “Abide in me...Conversations with the Heart of Jesus” Come, enrich both your heart and your home; learn what the Lord means when He says; “Abide in Me and I in you...” Enter into a conversation with the heart of Jesus as you explore John 15:1-8!**

This is the Bible Study Retreat that the Catholic women of the Diocese of Las Cruces took part in. Women from all parts of the diocese came together this past October in the beautiful setting of the San Patricio Retreat Center east of Ruidoso, NM. They learned that as Catholic women they are the heart and hearth of their homes. The theme for the weekend was abiding in the friendship of Jesus Christ through His Word, His Spirit & His Presence.

There were many opportunities for small group discussion as well as personal reflection and large group processing. The highlight of the weekend was a special exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in a meadow on the edge of the Ruidoso River surrounded by fruit trees, and mountain wildflowers!

Presenters for the weekend retreats were Mary Carter and Linda Broda Pribble. Mary has been organizing and leading women's Bible studies for years in the Diocese. She also has a business making liturgical garments for Priests, Deacons and Churches around the world.

Linda is a board certified Catholic Chaplain and Spiritual Director, she has been leading retreats for 20 years. She is the Retreat Director at San Patricio Retreat Center.



The Strong Challenge – Faith Sharing via SKYPE

By Donna Curtiss, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Our family and a few friends have discovered a wonderful use of Skype - doing a unique bible study. It is entitled the *Strong Challenge*. It is bringing thousands of people in Cincinnati (that's where my family is) and beyond together via the internet. My three sisters and their children and a few of their friends have made the commitment to meet once a week on Skype.

It is an interesting study on a number of levels. One, there are so many faiths involved in this challenge - over 60 churches are sharing in this event. While everyone is registered with a particular small group, it is estimated that there are 50,000 teammates participating. It is a six week commitment, for 20 minutes per day, five days a week experimenting with challenges designed to open us up to our God who spiritually strengthens us. The challenges aren't necessarily religious tasks; they are relationship builders. The philosophy behind this study is that the more we encounter God, the more our relationship with Him grows.

The daily challenges are divided into five categories: play, pray, study, train, and serve. Play and rest remind us that being strong is simply about receiving God's love. These activities help us see

the strength that comes from rest, play and ultimately, from God. *Prayer* challenges are designed to connect us with God on a real, intimate, everyday basis. *Study* grows our understanding of God and our ability to love other people. *Training* challenges us to engage God in fresh ways that break our daily routines thereby waking us up to God's truth. *Serve* challenges us to reflect on what it means to submit ourselves to helping others. All of these disciplines help us better understand Jesus and how we are called to discipleship. Found more at, <http://www.nafsc.org/#>  
Click on News and Events.

## New Mexico Conference of Churches

By Mary Carter

The Diocese of Las Cruces and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico recently participated in the Statewide Gathering of the New Mexico Conference of Churches. NMCC is an ecumenical organization of delegates from congregational Christian churches throughout New Mexico. The idea behind the gathering was to award the annual "Turquoise Chalice Award" to Bishop Ricardo Ramirez from the Diocese of Las Cruces on behalf of his excellence in fostering ecumenical dialog, and his work in areas of social justice and immigration reform. As bishop himself was unable to attend, accepting the Chalice Award on his behalf was David McNamara, Faith Formation director for the diocese of Las Cruces.

Michael Kinnamon, Director for the National Conference of Churches, was keynote speaker. Michael is from Washington, DC. Throughout the day there were opportunities for small group sharing between the church delegates on many stimulating and controversial topics. The day opened and closed with worship services.

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# NAFSCC

## *Wednesday at the Webinar*

### **1. SCCs in your Parish: Getting Started and Building a Foundation**

**November 16, 2011, 3:00 PM EST**

**Fr. John Krumm**

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH

NAPRC Board Member

Pastor, St. Brigid Catholic Church, Xenia, OH

St. Augustine Catholic Church, Jamestown, OH

### **2. Next Meet and Greet Webinar**

**December 14, 2011; 3 PM EST**

Meet and Greet Diocesan and Parish Members

Moderators: Sr. Donna Ciangio and Diane Kledzik

Meet and Greet our members, introduction to the web site

Questions for discussion about SCCs in their dioceses and parishes

Registration, contact Mary Carter,

Webinar Coordinator at [mcarter@jesusanswers.com](mailto:mcarter@jesusanswers.com)

## **2. Understanding the Heart of God through Scripture**

**January 11, 2012, 3:00 PM EST**

**Mary Carter**

Diocese of Las Cruces, NM



## **3. Best Practices – Inviting People into SCCs**

**March 14, 2012, 3:00 PM EST**

**Cecilia Bostico and Carolyn MacKenzie**

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH

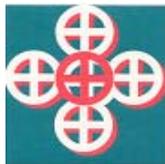
**For more information and registration, contact Mary Carter,  
Webinar Coordinator at [mcarter@jesusanswers.com](mailto:mcarter@jesusanswers.com)**

Our goal is to record these webinars and put on the Members' page for those who are not able to join us and those who would like to review the content

**Website News!** We are getting a lot of hits on our new website and people are spending time looking for resources. Please share your resource list with us and we will post it on the resource list.

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**Presented by**



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