



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

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The NAFSCC E-Newsletters sent bimonthly to members

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News and Ideas

Welcome to the FORUM for Small Christian Communities

Discussion Board

North American Forum for Small Christian Communities

Welcomes you to our On-line Forum.

You can access the "Forum" by going to:
<http://blog.nafsc.com> (note-no 'www').

Please note that visitors must subscribe and can choose to have comments received by Email or RSS feed.

Our hope is that you will use this opportunity to share ideas, stories and resources, benefit from our accumulated experiences and wisdom, and promote Small Christian Communities throughout our Arch/dioceses. General questions for your reflection and discussion will be posted. However, to make this FORUM alive and relevant, please post your successes, questions, ask for ideas.

Please remember to subscribe and VISIT often!
Your comments and suggestions are always welcome!

Carlette Chordas
NAFSCC Board Member
Web design

SCC Post-Convocation Meeting

To keep you informed about the upcoming SCC Post-Convocation, we want to share with the NAFSCC members what is going to occur. As you know, NAFSCC co-sponsored with other SCC organizations—SCC Connection (formerly Buena Vista), NAPRC (North American Parishes Restructuring into Small Christian Communities) as well as with MACC (Mexican American Cultural Center) and USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) the SCC Convocation in August 2007 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. The convocation was successful with good process and feedback from participants.

Four to five representatives from each of the SCC organizations will be gathering November 27-29, 2007 at St. Paul's Monastery in suburban St. Paul, MN to discuss and set directions for the future of SCCs in North America and throughout the world. We will be using the data from the process questions and evaluations of the SCC Convocation as background information for us. We hope to set goals and strategies to strengthen SCCs. NAFSCC members who attended the SCC Convocation were invited to the post-convocation meeting.

NAFSCC members attending are: Donna Cianglio OP., Diane Kledzik, Louise Alff OSF and Marci Blum OSF. NAFSCC members who are also members of other SCC organizations will be present. We estimate about 27 people attending. We will keep you posted.

We ask you for prayers in our discernment in setting directions for SCCs.

Upcoming Event

2008 NAPRC National Conference

National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities

July 17-19, 2008

“The Spirit of Christ: Engaging People in the Church”

Spirit of Christ Parish

Arvada, Colorado

What’s Going On with SCCs?

Share your good news what 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.

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-newsletter. E-mail: DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us.

Small Christian Communities in Port Elizabeth Diocese, South Africa

by Marie Cooper, SJC



During Apartheid times, RENEW International was invited to eight Catholic and twelve Anglican dioceses in South Africa where we assisted in the founding of SCCs where, for the first time, people of different races and ethnic backgrounds gathered together to share faith on the Scriptures.

Over the years, many of the parishes were successful in supporting the SCCs, while many were not able to do so. The seeds planted and the good fruits that were

experienced did not die: in 2007 RENEW was invited once again to South Africa. Today, in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth over 500 trained lay leaders are preparing to launch out again: this time it is with a very firm vision and commitment to SCCs as the basic unit of church for the future.

RENEW Africa: Gathered as God's Family is a totally new RENEW process based in Africa, created by Africans and responding to the needs and issues of the church of Africa. From the young artist who created the *RENEW Africa* logo to the program writers, this program is rooted and grounded in the African soil. With *RENEW Africa* small Christian communities, both existing and newly founded, will meet year round to reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings, except for two intensive periods of six weeks. During these six week periods (October/November and Lent) they will use newly created thematic materials which respond to the African reality today. Both the lectionary based and thematic materials are provided in all of the languages of the diocese, Xhosa, Afrikaans, and English.

The themes for the five six-week intensive Seasons are:

Meet Christ Today: Claiming Jesus as my Lord and Savior
Healing the Body of Christ: A Catholic Spirituality of Healing
We Are Church! Establishing a Self-sustaining Church
Sharing the Good News: Catholic Evangelization
Africa at the Dawn of the 21st Century: At the Service of Truth, Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace (focus of the African Synod 2012)

In the RENEW tradition, the lay leaders who implement *RENEW Africa*, the small community leaders and others will receive on going training and support for the duration of the program as well as assistance to plan the future support and growth of SCCs. Our services are enhanced by the local presence of an African Dominican Sister who assists with training and who provides ongoing consultation and support between the trainings.

RENEW International is honored to be invited back and excited to participate in the implementation of the vision of the permanent structure of the parish as a community of small communities, beginning in Port Elizabeth with the anticipation of other dioceses joining in each year.

About RENEW International

RENEW International is a canonically-recognized Catholic organization based in Plainfield, NJ, in the Archdiocese of Newark. RENEW International fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action.

RENEW International has a 27-year record in revitalizing parish life in over 150 dioceses in the United States, touching the lives of 25 million people through its

renewal processes. RENEW International also reaches many thousands outside the United States, having served people in 23 countries, across six continents and in 44 languages.

Resources

Reader's Journal for the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

This paperback book, published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2007, accompanies the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults. This is a useful tool for faith sharing groups. Each chapter leads the individuals in a process of faith sharing that connects with each chapter in the Catholic Catechism. To order, visit www.usccbpublishing.org or call 1-800-235-8722. Available in Spanish.

Quest

Quest, the Lectionary-Based Faith Sharing materials, published through the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, now have the booklets available in Spanish. Contact through their website: www.sccquest.org or call 1-860-243-9642.

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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 DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us