



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

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E-Newsletter

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News and Ideas

Donna L. Ciangio, OP
Chairperson, NAFSCC

As you receive our September E-Newsletter, I am working in South Africa in the Archdiocese of Durban. I am working with a diocesan team on adult formation and on the diocesan synod and will be here until the end of the month.

On Saturday, September 1, I was part of an adult formation day in which 900 – yes, 900 - people took part. They were catechists, priests, DREs, women religious, parishioners – just everyone who wanted to learn more about his/her faith. It was marvelous and extremely well coordinated. There were five topic

areas: Spirituality, The Word of God, the Eucharist, Morality, and the Holy Spirit. Every person was able to attend all of the presentations through an amazing way of organizing. For every 100 people there was a presenter doing one of the themes. One person actually wrote the presentation (I had the Holy Spirit) and then eight other presenters were recruited to work with the prepared talk and make it his or her own. That way, no one knew that there was a “main” person around each theme. Some presentations were given in English and some in Zulu. Guess which one I did!

I stayed with a group all day and was able to hear the discussion with each speaker – cares, concerns, joys, successes, and wishes. One very strong wish was that all Catholics really live their faith and be alive. Not uncommon to what we might desire in our own parishes and ministries.

A big success my group was small faith communities. It has been 20 years since I began working with Renew here and later “Follow Me!” The important thing is that the SCCs have continued in many parishes and continue to evolve. The wish is that many more would continue.

Again, so much depends on the interest of the pastor. Another program won’t do it. It must be an ongoing development to educate priests and people. This diocese continually puts out great material and they have been using a booklet in preparation for their upcoming synod. It is great material and is getting great reviews but unless the pastor backs it, people don’t know what is available or possible. Making contacts with the priests, deacons, and catechists here seems to be the way to go.

It also seems that the seasonal group works best for most people, especially during Lent. Many more are able to make that kind of commitment once a year with a few meetings in other months. I am keeping my eyes and ears open to see what else is happening!

The most refreshing person I have met is Rob. He is young, married with two children, and a candidate for the diaconate. He is so excited about his faith and has all kinds of new ideas to reach people, especially those of his generation. Hopefully, we will make some DVDs of presentations while I am here.

Blessings,
Donna

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

The National Joint Convocation on Small Christian Communities

August 22, 2007

Dear Convocation Participant,

Time flies. Just a little more than week ago we were gathered at the University of St. Thomas for the National Joint Convocation on Small Christian Communities. It's summer time, of course, but a good many of us are already back into the busyness of everyday life.

I write on behalf of the convocation planning team to thank you for your participation in the convocation. There was a great energy and enthusiasm among

us in St. Paul. Surely, the deep investment we all so clearly share in what small Christian communities can mean for ourselves, our own small communities, our parishes and the larger world is an encouragement for all of us.

Board members and others associated with the convocation's sponsoring organizations met on Sunday afternoon following the close of the convocation to reflect a bit on the overall experience. It was a very positive conversation. Planning is now underway for the follow up conference that will include a working group of four to five members from each of the five sponsors. There is, of course, the preliminary work of collating the table reports from Sunday morning and the papers from the initial exercise on opening night about the opportunities and challenges we face to deepen and promote small Christian communities. The condensed time frame for table process on Sunday morning challenged everyone's ability to work out a considered consensus on the proposed action steps. If there is some way for us to involve you further in the refinement of the convocation material prior to the follow up conference, we would like to do that. This is something of a challenge given that the members of the planning team also have work responsibilities that call for full time attention. We'll see what we can do.

Shortly, as promised, Pete Eichten will be sending you the register of participants with the contact information that was made available to us.

We don't need to wait for a grand plan for action to deepen and promote small Christian communities in our local circumstances. We need but act on what we know in our bones our own situations need. Above all, we need to act on Fr. Ron Rolheiser's reminder that whatever else we do, we need to center small church communities on Jesus and on our shared relationship with him.

Again, thank you for being with us and for your evident passion for Christ and his church, for small Christian communities, and for the advancement of the reign of God in our world.

Sincerely,
Robert K. Moriarty, S.M.
On behalf of the planning team



Convocatoria nacional conjunta sobre pequeñas comunidades eclesiales

Agosto 22, 2007

Estimado Participante a la Convocación:

El tiempo vuela. Hace solamente un poco más de una semana estábamos reunidos en la Universidad de St. Thomas para la Convocación Nacional Conjunta de Pequeñas Comunidades. Es tiempo de verano, desde luego, pero ya muchos de nosotros estamos de regreso a las muchas ocupaciones cotidianas de nuestras vidas.

Escribo de parte del equipo de planeación de esta Convocación para agradecerle su participación. Hubo una gran energía y entusiasmo entre nosotros en St. Paul. Seguramente que nuestro compromiso y significado que todos compartimos sobre las pequeñas comunidades, nuestras pequeñas comunidades, nuestras parroquias y el mundo en general, es motivante.

Los miembros de las mesas directivas y otros asociados a las organizaciones patrocinadoras de la convocación se reunieron el domingo por la tarde después del cierre del evento para reflexionar un poco sobre la experiencia completa. Fue una conversación muy positiva. Estamos ahora encaminados a la conferencia de seguimiento que incluirá a un grupo de trabajo de cuatro a cinco miembros de cada una de los cinco patrocinadores. Esta desde luego, el trabajo preeliminar de

compilar los reportes finales recibidos de cada mesa y los papeles del ejercicio realizado durante la noche de apertura sobre las oportunidades y desafíos que encaramos para profundizar y promover las pequeñas comunidades cristianas.

El poco tiempo disponible para el proceso de los pequeño grupos el domingo por la mañana fue un desafío para todos buscando lograr un consenso sobre los pasos a seguir. Si hubiese alguna manera de incluirte en el proceso de refinamiento de la información recibida antes de la conferencia de seguimiento, nos dará mucho gusto. Esta labor va a ser todo un reto dado que los miembros del equipo de planeación tienen responsabilidades que requieren de su tiempo completo. Ya veremos lo que podemos hacer.

No necesitamos esperar para un gran plan de acción para profundizar y promover las pequeñas comunidades cristianas en nuestras localidades. Necesitamos actuar en lo que sabemos se necesita en nuestra situación particular. Sobre todo, necesitamos actuar sobre lo que nos recordó el Padre Ron Rolheiser, de que hagamos lo que hagamos, necesitamos centrar las pequeñas comunidades eclesiales en Jesús y en nuestra relación compartida con el.

Una vez mas, gracias por estar con nosotros y por su evidente pasión por Cristo y su iglesia, por las pequeñas comunidades cristianas, y por el establecimiento del reino de Dios en nuestro mundo.

Sinceramente,
Robert K. Moriarty, S.M.

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 you 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.

News from Diocese of San Bernardino, California

Steve Valenzuela
Director of Office of Small Faith Communities
Diocese of San Bernardino
909-475-5197
svalenzuela@sbdioocese.org

Steve sends an e-newsletter focusing on Small Christian Communities in the Diocese of San Bernardino. The diocese offers a workshop entitled “Forming Family Based Small Faith Sharing.”

The diocese also publishes an Advent series of session. The Giving Welcome to Lord reproducible resource for Faith Sharing in Advent is expanding to six sessions this year with a pre-advent session and one for the Christmas octave. It will be available to parishes towards the end of October.

NAFSCC Board Members and E-Mail Addresses:

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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