



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

Volume 4, Issue 3
January 15, 2008

May 2008 Be Great!

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

The SCC Post-Convocation was held November 27-29, 2007 at the Benedictine Monastery near St. Paul, MN with approximately 23 attending from key SCC organizations: NAFSCC, 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).

Three goals were set: Education/Formation of SCCs, Networking, and Promoting Cultural and Diversity Sensitivity. Action plans for these three areas were established for the individual, SCC groups, parish, national and international levels.

A task force was formed with two representatives from each of the SCC organizations to collaborate more directly with each other. Diane Kledzik and Marci Blum OSF will represent NAFSCC. Pete Eichten will convene the first meeting.

NAFSCC members attending were: Diane Kledzik, Louise Alff OSF and Marci Blum OSF. NAFSCC members who are also members of other SCC organizations were present: Steve Valenzuela and Robert Moriarty SM.

News from NAFSCC Chair

Donna Ciangio, Chair of NAFSCC and director of Church Leadership Consultation, has done several workshops on looking at SCCs and adult formation in parishes. The point is to re-envision how a parish develops faith formation as a priority. The most recent workshops were in Las Cruces and Alamogordo, New Mexico, Metuchen, New Jersey, Little Rock, Arkansas with one coming up in Indianapolis.

Donna also wrote the foreword in *Parish As Covenant*, by Thomas P. Sweetser, SJ, in which she discussed SCCs as underdeveloped and underutilized in parishes as a way of engaging parishioners in their faith and living lives as disciples of Christ.

Gathering of NAFSCC and SCC Members

We want to have a gathering of NAFSCC and SCC members at the National Ministry Summit: Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership to be held April 20-23, 2008 in Orlando, Florida.

Who is intending to attend the conference so we can meet over luncheon? NAFSCC board members planning to attend are Donna Ciangio O.P., Diane Kledziek and Marci Blum OSF. E-mail DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us if planning to attend.
Thanks!

News from the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Lent 2008

The Archdiocese of Portland will engage in a diocesan wide small group process during Lent 2008. Archbishop John Vlazny invited the Catholics of Western Oregon to use this Lent and the readings as a time and source of reflection on reconciliation and healing.

This time of discernment is designed to focus the need for reconciliation in ourselves, families, parishes, and society - not only on the child sex abuse scandal. The local church sees reconciliation as a lens through which we can discern the baptismal call to holiness and then - in light of our baptism - reflect on other important issues that have harmed, angered and divided people (e.g. war, immigration and family life).

The process began last Spring when the Archdiocese meet with Brother Bob Moriarty, SM, and the Quest staff and asked if they would collaborate with us by incorporating the our themes of reconciliation and healing into the Quest Spring edition during the weeks of Lent. After discussion the Archdiocese of Portland's Department of Evangelization prepared a white paper and other reflections. These

were reviewed by Archbishop Vlazny and then given to Quest's author team. Quest began work on the material and Portland started planning the roll out.

The pastors were informed in July and in September a full marketing campaign was started to every parish in the Archdiocese of Portland. By November 15th, over 60% of the parishes had signed up. Early estimates indicate there will be six to ten thousand individuals in small groups in over 80 parishes. In parish sign ups begin the second week of January.

News From the Diocese of Victoria

The Diocese of Victoria in Texas has published its 5th edition of *Disciples on the Journey 2008*, a Lenten lectionary-based book for faith sharing in small groups of adults, teens, and families.

Go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call toll free 1-866-590-3688 for a sample or to order. Books are ready to be shipped in time for Lent.

New Small Group Resource on Reconciliation

Liturgical Publications Inc (LPi) is pleased to announce the publication of the newest release in its Catholic Faith Sharing series. *Reconciliation: The Unfolding Mystery of God's Mercy and Love* is written by Clare Colella, Rory Cooney, and Joseph Favazza. All members of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, they are part of the team that presents one of the NA Forum's newest institutes, "Ambassadors of Christ: Building Reconciling Communities."

Complementary copies were sent out to all those listed in the *National Directory of Diocesan and Eparchial Contacts for Adult Catechesis* from the USCCB. A copy is also available for any other NAFSCC member by contacting LPi at 800-950-9952, ext. 2469, or CustomerService@CatholicFaithSharing.com. Please mention you saw this offer in the NAFSCC newsletter when requesting your copy.

LPi would also be happy to help you promote adult faith formation within your diocese. Please contact us to discuss receiving promotional materials for parish contacts, discounted pricing for introductory copies, or to have a conversation about our materials with an author or editor.

For more information on all of Liturgical Publications' adult faith-sharing materials, please go to www.CatholicFaithSharing.com.

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@youngstowndioocese.org. She will put your ideas and activities on the NAFSCC website: www.nafsc.org.

Good News Column

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Archdiocese of Cincinnati SCC Formation Team Presents:

Small Church Communities Making a Difference in Parishes

Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Incarnation Parish Center

55 Williamsburg Lane

Centerville OH 45459

Keynote Presenters: Theresa Doyle, Bill and Barb Suliot, Carol and Larry Birch
Topics:

- How SCC Make a Parish Different; Forming and supporting Facilitators
- Continuing to bring people into SCC and advocating for SCC

Break out sessions:

- Forming a Core Team
- New Life Retreat
- How SCC Revitalizes the Parish and Helps
- Persons Grow In Faith
- Making Sense of Faith–Theological Reflection

Registration Information coming soon:
http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/oec/Upcoming_Event.htm

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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.

Resources

NAFSCC Board Members and E-Mail Addresses:

Sr. Marci Blum OSF, Archdiocese of Dubuque: DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us
(E-Newsletter)

Carlette Chordas, Diocese of Youngstown: cchordas@youngstowndiocese.org
(Website)

Sr. Donna Ciangio O.P., dciangio@comcast.net (Chair)

Rev. Pierre Goudreault, Diocese of Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec:
p.goudreault@cablevision.qc.ca (Consultant)

Ms. Margarita Hayes, Diocese of Las Cruces: mhayes@dioceseoflascruces.org
(Consultant)

Ms. Diane Kledzik, Diocese of St. Petersburg: dmk@dosp.org (Membership)

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