



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

**FNPCC**  
Foro Norteamericano  
Para  
**LAS PEQUEÑAS**  
**COMUNIDADES**  
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pour  
**LES PETITES**  
**COMMUNAUTÉS**  
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# E-Newsletter

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*The NAFSCC E-Newsletters sent bimonthly to members*

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## Good News Column

### What's happening in the Diocese of San Bernardino?

By Steve Valenzuela, Director, Office of Small Faith Communities

Small Christian Communities are alive and well throughout the diocese. According to our most recent survey in 2007, 60 (out of 93) parishes report 583 active communities. Approximately 287 communities gather in English, 277 communities gather in Spanish. In other languages, five gather in Vietnamese, 12 gather in Korean and two in Tongan. In 2007; 6389 people were involved in 2007.

The Office develops and publishes seasonal and special thematic resource for faith sharing in both Spanish and English...

For Advent/Christmas 2008, *Giving Welcome to the Lord* will focus on the Sunday lectionary and justice and stewardship.

For Lent/Easter 2009, *Accepting the Offer* will focus on the Sunday lectionary and the Covenant God offers us through Baptism.

As part of our diocesan implementation of the bishop's document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" we are preparing a monthly reproducible resource called *Forming Communities of Faithful Citizens* sent out to parishes. The resource will go out from March 2008 to February 2009. *All of the above resources are distributed free of charge and available to be downloaded from the office web site.*

Other projects focus on the sharing the vision of Church proposed by SCCs and the launching of new communities.

In August 2008, we will offer "Launching New Communities" workshop to help parishes develop a strategy for creating new communities.

In October 2008, the office is sponsoring a two-day conference with Fr. Pat Brennan called *Becoming a Mission Driven Church*. The days are based on Fr. Brennan's new book and being co-sponsored with the offices of development, lay ministry institute and pastoral planning.

We are developing a promotional DVD called "*The Emmaus Project*" for use with people as they finish our basic ministry formation program. The DVD is being designed in a talk show format to introduce the idea and vision of SCCs and then encourage newly "graduated" ministers to continue their formation through developing SCCs at their parishes. The plan is to show the DVD in the final course of the program each round beginning in Winter 2009.

Our 3-year advanced lay ministry formation program has decided to put participants into an ongoing SCC as a regular component of their formation program beginning in Fall 2008. They will be using NAPRC's "*Come As You Are*" for the first year and second year participants. The third year resource is yet to be decided.

In our two most distant vicariates, the office is working with local parishes and Spanish speaking leaders to do outreach to unchurched immigrant families. Our long term goal is to develop special audio (CD) resources for faith sharing since immigrants in the most rural areas of our diocese are often the least literate.

**Please see attachment of San Bernadino promotional flier.**

## **Small Church Communities: Making a Difference in Parishes**

Tanya Monsour Stager  
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The Archdiocese of Cincinnati with the SCC Formation Team will provide a formation day Saturday, November 15, 2008, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We are happy to announce that Father Clem Davis will be the keynote speaker. Father Clem is a board member of the National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities (NAPRC). A former Benedictine Monk, he is now a Priest with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, Indiana.

Father Clem is a proponent of Small Church Communities and brings an awareness of the dynamic impact SCC can have on parish life. He will relay how SCC provide spiritual nourishment and faith experiences for the participants. How do we bring people into communities, how do we keep SCC vital and connected with the larger church are some topics to be addressed by Father Clem.

There will also be an opportunity to take part in small sessions covering such topics as forming a core team, parish retreat information, and understanding faith reflection.

This event will take place at Incarnation Parish Center, 55 Williamsburg Lane, Centerville Ohio 45459. The cost of \$25 includes lunch and continental breakfast. With groups of three or more from the same parish the cost is \$20 per person. Registration information can be found very soon on our web site,

[http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/oec/Upcoming\\_Event.htm](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/oec/Upcoming_Event.htm)

## SCCs in the Archdiocese of Hartford

Bob Moriarty SM

The Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities (Archdiocese of Hartford) has published another edition of Quest in Spanish. It's first offering in Spanish this past spring was appreciatively received both critically, by Hispanic pastoral professionals around the country, and on the popular level by folks from diverse Hispanic/Latino contexts. With the generous assistance of a grant from Our Sunday Visitor Institute, this fall edition of Quest is presented in the same full color format as the English edition.

An overnight retreat for eight pastors and core team chairpersons was the highlight summer for small church communities in the Archdiocese of Hartford. With Fr. Art Baranowski on hand to help facilitate, pastors and chairs came together to reflect, converse, pray and celebrate their shared efforts to promote a *vision for parish* centered on *ordinary people helping each other to connect life and faith regularly*. The fall issue of **Gatherings**, Hartford's periodic enrichment resource, will feature reflections on this gathering from pastors and chairs.

## NAPRC Highlights

Bob Moriarty SM

This year's annual conference of the National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities gathered under the banner of the Church Ever Young. Alice Camille (Exploring the Sunday Readings) and Fr. Bob Beloin (Catholic Chaplain at St. Thomas More Chapel at Yale) were the keynote presenters. Participants came from 12 states and Canada. The conference was spectacularly and gloriously hosted by Spirit of Christ Parish in Arvada, Co under the special guidance of Barbara Howard and the ample participation of, and support by, the 80 small church communities (more than 800 folks) in the parish. A raft of workshops were offered by way of practical resourcing. The Saturday evening Eucharist was celebrated with the entire community. What sight it was to have hundreds of small church community members from the parish participating.

The 2009 NAPRC conference will be hosted in the Diocese of Erie with Nancy Fischer C.S.J. heading up the local planing. The focus will be on the interface between whole community (or intergenerational) catechesis and small church communities. Willam Huebsch will be the keynoter

## 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](mailto:cchordas@youngstowndiocese.org). She will put your ideas and activities on the NAFSCC website: [www.nafsc.org](http://www.nafsc.org).

## Good News Column

### Scripture Reflection for Small Faith Sharing Groups

See attachment in pdf, "Autumn 2008" submitted by the Office of Religious Education in Youngstown, Ohio.

Office of Religious Education  
225 Elm Street  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

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](mailto:DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us).

## Resources

### Disciples on the Journey 2009

We will be again publishing **Disciples on the Journey Lent 2009**. Attached is a PDF concerning the 2009 book..

Sr. Digna Vela  
Diocese of Victoria, Texas

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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](mailto:DBQCLF@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)