



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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Good News Column

What's Going On with SCCs?

Share your good news that 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.

Upcoming Events

NAPRC Conference 2009

The National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities (NAPRC) is hosting their annual conference July 23 through 25th in the Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania. Keynote speaker is William Huebsch noted author and expert in the field of Whole Community Catechesis. The conference will attempt to relate the concept of "doing parish differently" to the concept of whole community catechesis. In addition there will be numerous workshops on a variety of topics related to small Church communities. If you want more information please contact Fr. John Krumm at 937-2563600 or Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ at 814-824-1217.

Resources

Finding the God of Hope

New SCC Resource from Africa

Sr. Rita Ishengoma (Tanzania), who has visited small church communities here in the states on a number of occasions, announces the upcoming publication of her book, *Akamwani*, a resource for small church communities. *Akamwani* means

- coffee bean. Among the Haya people, Sr. Rita's tribe, a coffee bean is offered to a visitor to some one's home as an expression of welcome. It represents a sharing of love among friends. The book includes reflections on the small community experience, suggestions for the conduct of small community meetings, insights

gained from her international experience of small Christian communities. Sr. Rita was last with us at the 2007 National Joint Convocation on Small Christian Communities. Written in English and now being readied for printing, the book will not cost more than \$8.00, plus S/H. Orders are now being taken for the book by the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities (Archdiocese of Hartford) at (860) 761-7450.

Gatherings

The spring edition of **Gatherings**, the periodic enrichment resource of the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities (Archdiocese of Hartford) is available on-line at www.sccquest.org Features in this issue include 1.) an essay on the The Kingdom of God by Bishop Richard Sklba (Archdiocese of Milwaukee) along with some questions for reflection and conversation and 2.) a report on the visit of Irish Salesian, Fr. James O'Halloran, to Hong Kong to learn and about and meet with small Christian communities in China. This issue also announces plans for the anniversary dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the beginnings of small church communities in the archdiocese. Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I. will be the dinner speaker. He will reflect on the theme, "Jesus, Communion and Community".

Longing for the Holy from RENEW International

Experience how the gentle spiritual guidance and practical wisdom of best-selling author, Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I. can enliven everyday life with this new faith-sharing resource. Ideal for small group or individual reflection, *Longing for the*

Holy covers different dimensions of contemporary spiritual life.

It concerns the way we channel the deep longing at the core of our beings and explores the implications of the central mysteries of the Catholic faith for spirituality: the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Eucharist, and the Paschal Mystery. Attending to the cultural challenges that keep us from realizing our true desire, it considers the important themes of Church community, justice, sexuality, the practices of the spiritual life, and being a mystic of the everyday.

Longing for the Holy is ideal for all who want to enrich their sense of the presence of God and develop a deeper spiritual journey, whether as individuals or as a faith-sharing group.

The Participant's Book contains twelve sessions written for small group faith-sharing or individual reading and reflection with themes based on selected insights of Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I. Those who are interested in following *Longing for the Holy* as a group process will find that the **Leader's Kit** provides a wealth of resources, based on RENEW International's 30 years' experience in promoting faith sharing. The kit contains a sample participant's book, leader's guides, prayer journal, song CD, Audio-book edition plus access to web-based resources and support.

Available in Spanish, a new faith-sharing resource entitled, *Sedientos de Dios: una espiritualidad para la gente de hoy*, brings a Catholic spiritual perspective to everyday life, in 12 sessions.

These and other faith-sharing resources are available at <http://www.renewintl.org/store>.

Akamwani: The Challenges of Bible Sharing in Small Christian Communities

Author: Sister Rita Ishengoma, STH

Publishers & Printers: Old East Africa Ltd, 2009

Reviewer: John P. Mbonde

In his foreword, Auxiliary Bishop of Dar es Salaam Archdiocese, Method Kilaini, writes, "Sr Rita Ishengoma has given us a big gift of 'akamwani'. Akamwani (coffee beans) among the Haya people is a sign of friendship, brotherhood and love. It chases away evil spirits, brings reconciliation and renews community life.

She could not have chosen a better word to express her experience of the Small Christian Communities,” p 6.

The book has seventeen chapters enhanced with beautiful photographs of different events she participated inside Tanzania and abroad. Sr Rita has accommodated other people's experiences not only in the different dioceses of Tanzania, but also from other countries as far as Germany and United States of America. There is variety of contributions from religious and lay both men and women that bring very powerful insights in a new life in the Small Christian Communities (SCCs). “Bringing her work to the African milieu, she narrates proverbs and tales from the wisdom of the African ancestors. In Africa if you want to put a stop to a discussion bring in a proverb or tale that gives the solution or leads to a decision. One is not expected to argue against the wisdom of ancestors unless he or she can bring a better proverb or tale. Sr Rita shows how one can use this wisdom in the Small Christian Communities,”

Akamwani is one of the recent great challenges in applying the African traditional materials in proclamation of Good News. Of course, the book is very practical which offers opportunity to each and every member in SCC to share his/her experience with other members. On the other side of the coin, this book may encourage other people to keep record of their respective life experiences for present and future generations.

NAFSCC Board Members and E-Mail Addresses:

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

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

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

Pat Froning OSF, Tiffin, Ohio: pfroning@tiffinfranciscans.org

Deacon Tom Gornick, Archdiocese of Portland: tgornick@archdpx.org

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

Michael Krejci, Liturgical Publications, mkrejci@4LPi.com

Tanya Monsour Stager, Archdiocese of Cincinnati: tstager@catholiccincinnati.org (*Secretary-Treasurer*)

Consultants

Fr. Pierre Goudreault, Diocese of Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec: p.goudreault@cablevision.qc.ca

Margarita Hayes, Diocese of Las Cruces: mhayes@dioceseoflascruces.org

Visit NAFSCC website: www.nafsc.org

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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