

SMALL FAITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Adapted From the Small Christian Community Connection's Website (www.buenavista.org)

SMALL FAITH GROUP RESOURCES

Pastoral Planning's Center for Small Faith Communities: Includes key resources for leaders, Growing Faith Mini-Courses for Small Groups, Bible Study in Plain English, and the Living Christ Retreat (and more.) <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/ceforsmchco.html>

Small Faith Community Connection: Formerly known as Buena Vista, SCCC is an organization whose mission has been to network diverse small Christian communities (SCCs), their members, advocates and resources utilizing print, web, DVD, other media and face-to-face gathering. Includes a great list of resources for Small Faith Communities www.buenavista.org

LECTIONARY BASED PUBLICATIONS

SUNDAY BY SUNDAY: Four-page weekly for adults and teens that invites readers to the regular spiritual exercise of reflecting on the Sunday scriptures together. The material is suitable for a SFC, RCIA or a scripture study group and has four component elements: prayer, a pamphlet of commentary on the Sunday scripture, community sharing, and concludes with a call to service and justice. For teens the series offers the lectionary based The Spirit Program. The series can be purchased in annual or smaller units or simply in a seasonal package (Advent and Lent). Call 800-232-5533 or through the website: www.goodgroundpress.com

Exploring the Sunday Readings: A four-page monthly publication that includes scripture reflections, faithsharing questions and a call to make a faith response for the particular Sunday. The approach is simple and direct with no frills. To order call Twenty-Third Publications at 800-321-0411 or visit their website www.twentythirdpublications.com

Impact Series: RENEW International publishes the IMPACT series for the growth of SFCs. Each publication offers a faith-sharing time with a rich diversity of topics designed to raise consciousness, deepen spirituality and instill action. Consider purchasing a sample packet to get an overview of all their current resources. www.renewintl.org (Search their Bookstore for Small Faith Resources)

Share the Word: Devotional articles and scriptural material for personal or communal sharing, reflection and growth. Each edition provides guidelines, commentary and questions for faith-sharing all the Sunday scriptures in the liturgical cycle. The tone of its publications is evangelization as the essential component of our Christian life. For the weekday readings, a short meditation is offered to enrich the sense of the scripture. The devotional is available through Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association by calling 202-832-5022 or visiting their website www.paulistpress.com

Living Liturgy: Spirituality, Celebration and Catechesis for Sundays and Solemnities is a treasure for faith-sharing in and of itself because it offers the entire text for the Sunday readings along with a commentary on the scriptures and catechetical instruction. Living Liturgy provides a practical and prayerful means to reflect on, celebrate and live the paschal mystery. Each liturgical cycle is completely redone annually. To order call the Liturgical Press at 800-585-5450 or visit their website at www.litpress.org

Engaging Faith: The Center of Concern offers reflections on the Sunday readings from a justice perspective. The resource also offers questions for faith sharing groups. www.coc.org

Peace Connections: This website has peace and justice reflections for the Sunday readings for all three cycles. The documents are available in Microsoft Word or pdf format.
www.peaceconnections.netfirms.com

The 8th Day Center: A downloadable guide for reflection "Toward a Spirituality of Justice."
www.8thdaycenter.org

At Home with the Word - Sunday Scriptures and Scripture Insights. Useful for meditation on the Sunday scriptures by yourself or with others. Appropriate for every Sunday of the Liturgical Year, it provides the three scripture readings and psalm as well as insights into the readings and suggestions for reflection. Contact: Liturgy Training Publications www.ltp.org

Sharing God's Word Through the Year - A Guide for Small Groups of Young Adults - Cycles A, B & C. Sharing God's Word Through the Year helps young adults reflect on the Scripture and relate them to daily life in a small faith sharing group. It uses the Gospel readings from each Sunday as a springboard for reflection. A short historical-cultural commentary helps young adults understand the context of the Sunday readings. Each Sunday includes a story written by a young adult on the meaning of the gospel theme. The questions for discussion and sharing along with the action suggestions are geared to the needs and issues of people in their twenties. The binder is fully reproducible and ready to use in a variety of settings. Contact: Center for Ministry Development 203- 723-1622, www.cmdnet.com

TOPICAL ISSUES

Prayer and Spirituality:

Connections: A Spirituality of Life and Work: A small group Paulist program designed to enhance the spirituality we live in the real world. The process is open to use by Catholics and other Christians who want to help each other become more conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Contact: 512-452-7566 www.landings-international.org

Disciples in Prayer: A resource helpful for private prayer, small faith-sharing groups, for all those at various stages of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or for anyone who takes delight in understanding the Word at the center of Catholic faith and teaching. Contact: Oregon Catholic Press 503-281-1191, liturgy@ocp.org

Vatican II

Vatican II: Act II - An Adult Discussion Program. Rev. Robert L. Kinast's four-part series guides the convener and participant in the faith-sharing group whether seasonal, ministerial or SCC through documents of Vatican II. There is an abundance of material for nourishment and growth allowing participants to move beyond a level of personal comfort and into new areas of ministry. The four titles in the series are: Work, Living in God's World, Families, and Called to Holiness. The latter is typical and explores the theme of spirituality as lived out in everyday circumstances and families using the bible and liturgy to respond to God's call to holiness. To order call the NPLC at 212-431-7825 or email cpatten@nplc.org

Bible Study

Emmaus Journey - A Catholic Bible Study from the Word Among Us Press This set of booklets incorporate reflection on Scripture passages around various important topics of personal spirituality and discipleship. Each discussion topic is presented and reinforced by references to valuable Catholic resources. Contact: info@emmausjourney.org

Catholic Social Teaching/Social Justice/Peace

Sharing the Tradition, Shaping the Future: A five-booklet series structured for faith-sharing on the basic themes of Catholic social teaching. Its purpose is to enable adults to enter into and grow in awareness of the social justice tradition of the Catholic Church. Topics include: Sharing Experience, Sharing the Tradition; Shaping the Future: Family, Community and Participation; Dignity of the Human Person; Preferential Option for the Poor; and Solidarity with the Poor. To order contact the USCCB Publishing Services at 800-235-8722 or visit their website at www.nccbuscc.org/cchd/index.htm

St. Andrew Society: A six- week Scripture study on hunger. You can order hard copies at a cost, but it is a free download from the website. The website has other information about hunger and about gleaning programs and wasted food in our country. www.endhunger.org/study

Just Faith: This is a year-long program modeled on the RCIA to empower people of faith to develop a passion and thirst for justice. There is also a JustFaith II program which is aimed at skill development at justice work and advocacy. www.justfaith.org

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: CCHD has five faith sharing booklets available for a nominal cost. The titles are Sharing the Tradition, Shaping the Future; The Call to Family, Community and Participation; Dignity of the Human. Person; Preferential Option For and With the Poor; and Solidarity with the Poor. Each booklet contains selected Scripture readings, reflections, focus questions and suggested group actions. They are available both in English and Spanish. www.usccb.org/cchd

Surefish- Act Justly This contains an Act Justly I and II which can be downloaded. Each is a six session Scripture study linking the scriptures to justice issues. There are also prayer resources on the website. www.fish.co.uk/faith/actjustly/index.htm

Mennonite Central Committee These peace studies are meant for group sharing. There are samples on the web page, but the actual materials need to be ordered. The cost is minimal. They also have peace prayers available online. www.mcc.org

Missalette with Faith-Sharing Content

Living with Christ: Your Daily Scriptural Companion - The familiar pocket-sized monthly missalette format of daily readings is retained but is enriched to move readers more deeply into the Eucharistic liturgy through faith-sharing questions, starter prayers, saints biographies, and more. Each monthly edition has two weeks of material for faith-sharing groups. To order call Bayard, Inc. at 800-572-0788 or email: lwc@bayard-inc.com

Catechism of the Catholic Church with Faith-Sharing: Why Catholic? Journey through the Catechism offers a concrete approach to adult faith formation based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church employing the methods of adult learning theory. The faith-sharing approach will help deepen a participant's Catholic identity. To order contact RENEW International at 888-433-3221 or visit their website at www.renewintl.org

Faith-Sharing for Young Mothers

MOMS: Ministry of Mothers Sharing creates an awareness of the inner sacred self while teaching new ways to inspire, encourage and affirm each other. Through the process of personal and spiritual growth, women have the opportunity to clarify their values, claim their own giftedness, and bring new strengths to their family relationships and to the Christian Community. The experience triggers a growth in faith and engagement. In the life of the Church. For more information contact the national M.O.M.S office at 651-748-4089 or visit their website at <http://www.stpaulsmonastery.org/6-moms/introduction.html>

Family and Intergenerational Faith-Sharing

Family Faith Communities offers a process and place for families to form relationships with other families who share a common faith tradition, explore the presence of God in their daily lives, learn more about our Catholic faith in an intergenerational setting (all ages gathering together), and to have some fun. The book provides ten gatherings with accompanying activities to help begin a faith family community experience. These gatherings explore themes important to Catholic Christians. The outcome is relationships beyond the immediate family circle and a lot of fun. The child in you will grow! To order call Good Ground Press at 800-232-5533 or visit their website at www.goodgroundpress.com

PUBLICATIONS WITH SMALL FAITH RESOURCES

23rd Publications: www.23rdpublications.com

St. Anthony Messenger: www.americancatholic.org

Paulist Press: www.paulistpress.org

Loyola Press: www.loyolapress.org

Ave Maria Press: www.avemariapress.org

Our Sunday Visitor: www.osv.org

LOCAL RETREAT CENTERS & SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES

Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, MD: www.loyolaretreat.org

Bon Secours Spiritual Center, Marriotsville, MD: bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org

Wellspring Conference Center, Germantown, MD: www.welispringministry.org

Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat House, Bethesda, MD www.catholic-life.net/olb

Washington Retreat House for Women: Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC, Tel. #202-529-1111

St. Anselm's Abbey, Washington, DC: www.stanselms.org/guests.htm

Shalem Institute, Bethesda, MD: www.shalem.org

Am Kolel Sanctuary and Renewal Center, Beallsville, MD: www.sanctuaryretreatcenter.com

Loyola College Retreat Center, Flintstone, MD: www.lovola.edu/eventservices/retreatcenter

For more see: www.findthedivine.com/statesLstates md.html