

BUILDING COMMUNION WITH GOD AND OTHERS THROUGH SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUPS ASSISTING
PARISH RENEWAL
IN THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

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Those who sincerely accept the Good News, through the power of this acceptance and of shared faith therefore gather together in Jesus' name in order to seek together the kingdom, build it up and live it.

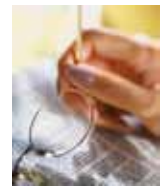
(Evangelii Nuntiandi #13)



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Building Communion with God and Others



Parishes *with* Small Groups

Small groups have long been part of the culture of Catholic life. Christians have gathered in small groups, in one form or another since the early Christian communities. They have been integral to the faith life of many individuals.

In the Archdiocese of Brisbane, small groups, in various shapes and sizes have sustained and nurtured the faith life of community members. These have evolved out of particular needs of church members and communities. They have been a source of renewal and faith development through many generations.

The present scenario in the Archdiocese of Brisbane can best be described as a 'church *with* small groups'. The list of these small groups is quite extensive and diverse. This resource seeks to provide parishes with a vision to make our Archdiocese one where parishes are communities *of* small groups – a community of communities.

In a 'Church *with* small groups', the purpose varies but usually comes out of a need to help people find a place in the Church. Members of these groups come out of a personal need to be connected with others. Leaders of these groups usually lead out of a personal call to lead – although not always as clear as that. Often they are 'appointed' through consensus of the members of the group. It may even be an assumed role because the group is meeting at

a particular person's residence and that person becomes the leader by default.

While recognised as groups within the parish, many are often not *intentionally* part of the overall parish plan. There is low monitoring of these groups and they usually have a life of their own. Quite often small groups exist within the boundaries of a parish community but came into being out of a renewal experience with

another body. Such groups often, while endorsed by the Archbishop, are local expressions of state, national or in some cases international movements.

Many small groups come into existence in order to 'do' a program. These are valid and valued ways of forming small groups but in many cases once the program has finished the group ceases to exist. This is a common experience across many parishes.

In a Church *with* small groups, these small groups often are not *integral* and *intentional*

in connecting with the parishes in which they exist.

This sometimes leads to a feeling of *isolation* for these groups as they are not connected to the parish community, in the sense that if they cease to exist, it often goes unnoticed by the rest of the community and the parish life goes on seemingly unaffected. Membership of these groups is optional and the leadership,

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS...

- ∞ *provide adults with both a sense of belonging and a place where God can be found;*
- ∞ *enable adults to grow in faith and understanding of Jesus through reflecting on scripture and sharing prayer together;*
- ∞ *provide a space where the kingdom can be upheld through its life, vitality, friendship, worship, and care and concern for each other;*
- ∞ *assist adults to recognise that everything they do, especially in normal work, is an opportunity to promote Christ's vision of the world;*
- ∞ *enable adults to become aware of and be involved in matters of social welfare and social justice in order to uphold the vision of Jesus.*

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Archdiocese of Brisbane

resources, and way of life within these groups reflects their purpose and charism.

Parishes *of* Small Groups

The Archdiocesan Vision of *Jesus Communion Mission* and the nine priorities call us to be renewed as a dynamic and life-giving evangelising Church.

Archbishop John Bathersby, in his address (22/03/2003) says: *Jesus Communion Mission 'is essential for living a Christian life... they are like three vital signs that must be evident in the lives of each of us, in the lives of each of our communities and in the life of the Archdiocese as a whole. All three must be present in dynamic relationship if we are to experience the fullness of Christian life and have the impact in the world that Jesus Christ desires. The absence of any one of the three, in us, or our communities robs our Christianity of its vitality...'*

A parish community *of* small groups is a very effective way of making the vision of *Jesus Communion Mission* a living reality. An ideal parish *of* small groups ensures planning, activities and projects are first and foremost embedded in prayer. Projects are launched and decisions made through prayerful discernment, reflection on the Word and trust in the Spirit.

It is very difficult for individuals to maintain a prayerful attitude of gratitude in isolation from the other members of the community. Small groups – regardless of purpose and process – are first of all a powerhouse of prayer.

What do these small groups *do*?

The main purpose of the parish *of* small groups is *to build church as community*. It is a community where members feel connected and experience a deep sense of belonging. This gives them a sense of purpose and value as well as a strong sense of commitment to the parish community.






Parishes *of* small groups intentionally invite parishioners to be members of these groups

according to their interests and needs.

Members of small groups also play a role in personally inviting parishioners to join their groups. This is essential for growth and the vitality of the groups and ultimately the growth and vitality of the parish.

The leaders of such small groups are formed, trained and supported by the parish community. This prevents leaders feeling isolated and disconnected in their ministry. Well formed leaders have a critical role in the life and growth of the parish community. They are attuned to the vision of *Jesus Communion Mission* and facilitate the renewal and life-giving grace that comes about through small group prayer and sharing of life.

The purpose of each small group is discerned by its members and the group leader in relation to the vision and goals (priorities) of the wider church community. This discernment comes about through prayer and discussion of all involved and usually comes out of a need that has been identified in the community. It may be, for example, a group:

-  for intercessory prayer
-  for social activities
-  to study scripture / reflect on the Sunday Gospels
-  to arouse awareness of community needs
-  to support mothers, the elderly, people with disability ... and the list is endless.

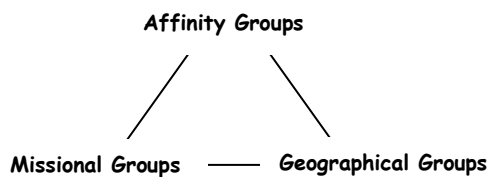
A parish *of* small groups supports leaders to articulate the vision, prepare, plan and facilitate each of the groups. The style of gathering is designed collaboratively under the leadership of the group facilitator in order to serve the specific purpose of the group and to reflect the values and spirituality of the wider community, e.g. whether it be a Liturgy Group, bread run, or play group.

Authority in small groups is exercised in a spirit of servant leadership in collaboration with the parish community through prayer and discernment. This allows a connectedness that is vital and life-giving to both the individual

members of the small groups and the wider parish community. It is an environment where evangelisation is encouraged and supported. It is an environment where individuals are cared for and encouraged to care for others. It is an environment where individuals feel connected and find the living of *Jesus Communion Mission* a greater possibility in their daily lives.

Affinity, Mission and Geographical Groups

Small groups generally fall into three categories:



Affinity Groups: The whole small group structure of any parish can be built around affinity. Groups are formed around *likeness*. These may include:

- ✚ common age: elderly, baby boomers, parents of older children, parents of younger children, young adults, youth, children.
- ✚ common interest: scripture study, prayer for parish, parent support, music ministry, care and concern, sports, hobbies, eg knitting
- ✚ common need: single parents, low income, disability, experience of illness, visually impaired, faith nourishment
- ✚ common gender: men's groups, women's groups, couple's groups
- ✚ common experiences: conversion experience weekends, singles groups, widows, widowers, grief and loss, ongoing study in theology.

Missional Groups: All groups, in a sense are Missional. However some groups form to meet a specific need in the community. In forming a small group they, themselves, are able to connect and support each other in prayer and intentional activities to meet a need in the community. These may include:

- ✚ Bread run for the poor
- ✚ Prayer and Communion ministers to the housebound

- ✚ Community Pantry
- ✚ Home maintenance for the elderly and those living alone
- ✚ Car maintenance for the elderly and single parents.

Geographical Groups: Parishes are divided into natural geographical areas. Groups are formed within fairly close proximity. This assists with a mutual sharing of each others lives, supporting each other at difficult times and celebrating the joyous times in family life. Each area has it's own KIT team, (Keeping in Touch team) who are formed and trained for this ministry. There are varying ways to achieve this:

- ✚ neighbourhood church groups
- ✚ local estate area groups
- ✚ N,S,E,W groups
- ✚ area groups named in parish colour groups using streets as boundaries.

***Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection ...
rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.'***

(Romans 12:9)



Envisioning Small Groups In Your Parish



A call to Discipleship

As Christians, through the very nature of our Baptism we all called to discipleship. 'Small groups' is one way for a parish community to make this call to discipleship a reality. As followers of Christ, disciples are called to live as witnesses to the Gospel.

Renewal of the whole Parish Community

In order to achieve parish renewal and become a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community ALL small groups need to be aligned with the vision and goals of the parish community and in turn the Archdiocesan vision of *Jesus Communion Mission* and the nine priorities. Small groups can become exclusive, isolated and self-serving which stunts the life of individuals and the life of the whole parish. It stifles renewal and evangelisation. The following five of the nine *priorities* are directly related to creating a parish *of* small groups.

Jesus

... that Catholics embrace the person and vision of Jesus Christ:

Embracing the person and vision of Jesus is the key to our Christian mission. A growth in faith and understanding of Jesus is nurtured through a lifetime of reflection in scripture, liturgy (especially Eucharist), and prayer. (LYLS p. 15)

Welcoming Communities

... that parishes are welcoming, inclusive communities to which people are drawn and have a strong sense of belonging:

If the parish is really the sign of the kingdom that it is meant to be, its life, vitality, friendship of people at worship, and care and concern will attract those who have lapsed in their faith and those who have no faith. (LYLS p. 15)

Daily Life

... that Catholics recognise and value the impact of their everyday Christian living on building a better world:

The great value of the Second Vatican Council was that it turned the Church towards the world as Christ himself had turned to the world. As a result Christians need to recognise that everything we do, especially in our normal work, is able to promote or hinder Christ's vision of the world. (LYLS p. 15)

Justice and Welfare

... that a deep awareness of and commitment to social justice and social welfare are characteristic of Catholics throughout the Archdiocese:

We cannot really be called 'followers of Christ' unless we are involved in matters of social welfare and social justice. There are still so many matters in our society and world that cry out for Christian attention if we wish to transform the world according to the vision of Christ. (LYLS p. 15)

Small Groups

... that Parishes accept, value and use the initiatives of small groups to nurture and support people on their faith journey:

It is important for the Church not merely to try to stimulate and support the community of the family and that of the Church, but also to encourage small [faith sharing groups] that provide both a sense of belonging and a place where God can be found. (LYLS p. 15)

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Practical Suggestions and Issues for Intentionally Connecting Small Groups in Parishes



Clarity of Purpose

In setting up a small group ministry in your parish it is important to:

- ✚ be *clear* about your parish's intentions and expectations in calling for a ministry in small groups.
- ✚ train & support leaders in facilitating people connecting with each other.
- ✚ create an environment in small groups for giving and receiving care.
- ✚ focus on small steps – taking people just the next step.
- ✚ develop people according to the vision of *Jesus Communion Mission*
- ✚ have a clarity of purpose for each group
- ✚ encourage an environment of prayer and sharing on the faith journey.

Connecting Small Groups to Parish Communities

After the paper '*Growing The Vision From The Grass Roots*', was delivered at the 2007 Adult Faith Gathering Day in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, participants were given the opportunity to discuss the material presented to evaluate its impact for their parishes. The following are some of the 'wisdoms' and practical steps collated on *intentional connection* from that discussion.

- ✚ Each member of Pastoral Council "adopts" a group and acts as a liaison between that group and Council.
- ✚ The Chair of Pastoral Council will make regular contact with leaders of groups.
- ✚ Each small group leader is invited to attend the PPC to give a talk about the vision and purpose of his/her group.
- ✚ A process for leaders of groups be established to promote the group and its' work to the parish by various means, eg a short talk at end of Mass.
- ✚ Parish leadership convenes a 'group of leaders' for ongoing formation and support in their role. Leaders can then play a more energised part in their role as leader within the group.

- ✚ Individual groups advertise their 'work' to attract new members eg Parish Expo, Stewardship Fair.
- ✚ Groups report annually on their *mission*.
- ✚ The parish holds a combined once a year retreat day for all small groups in the parish.
- ✚ All continue to re-focus on the common vision of *Jesus Communion Mission*.
- ✚ Parishioners pray for a different small group in the prayers of the faithful each week.
- ✚ Small Group leaders encourage and invite priests to attend the small groups occasionally.
- ✚ The parish commissions leaders of small groups each year.
- ✚ Technology (emails, web page) is used to improve communication between small groups and the parish community.
- ✚ A parish directory of all small groups is created with contact details of individual leaders.

Issues Arising when Connecting Small Groups in Parishes

The discussion also raised the issues that may need further discussion in Parishes. These include:

- ✚ the need to create clear and open communication between small groups and the PPC and Leadership Team
- ✚ the need to always have a clear focus on *Jesus Communion Mission*
- ✚ knowing about and acquiring good resources for small groups
- ✚ the need to acknowledge that each group belongs and is valued in the life of the Parish
- ✚ all small groups regardless of their mission cultivate an environment of prayer
- ✚ a need for a regular audit of small groups in the parish
- ✚ visioning and planning needs to be creative and open to the work of the Spirit
- ✚ small groups need to be welcoming and inclusive not exclusive and selective.

One Model for Small Faith Sharing Groups



✚ Welcome and Catch-up	20 mins
✚ Prayer	10 mins
✚ Scripture	10 mins
❖ Connections	20 mins
❖ Mission	20 mins
✚ Sending Forth	10 mins

Welcome and Catch-up (15-20 mins)

The Welcome and Catch-up segment is a time of catching up” a time of listening to each other and sharing. It is a time of ‘gathering’ – acknowledging the ‘busy-ness’ of the day and connecting with each other.

- ✚ *What significant things have happened for me during the past week (or since the group last gathered)?*
- ✚ *What have I been learning?*

It is not a time to solve problems or suggest how to fix things, or offer opinions. It is simply a time of gentle listening to each member. This provides the context for prayer and Scripture reflection. Often this will link to the *Connections* and *Mission* sections of the meeting.

Prayer (5-10 mins)

Prayer segment is a time for ‘gentling’ the spirit, quietening down and ‘arriving’ – physically, mentally, and spiritually – in order to be present to other members of the group, and God who is present in those gathered (See p ??).

One effective approach is to use quiet music – either instrumental music or mantra style hymns that still the mind and heart. You will find some suggestions on page ??.

Scripture (8-10 mins)

This part of the meeting may rely on an existing resource (see p ??).

One suggestion is to take the Sunday Gospel or any other piece of Scripture, mutually agreed upon, by the group.

- ✚ *Invite a participant to read the Scripture passage slowly.*

- ✚ *Allow a short period of time in silence to ‘hear’ again words or phrases that stand out to you as you listened to the reading.*
- ✚ *After one or two minutes, read the passage a second time – slowly and meaningfully. Again, pause in silence.*
- ✚ *After a short while invite members of the group to speak aloud, without comment, the word or phrase that stood out for them as they listened.*

Participants may be invited to reflect on:

- ✚ *How is this Scripture passage speaking to me?*
- ✚ *What did I hear that prompted a response in me?*
- ✚ *What images were evoked in me as I listened to the Scripture passage?*
- ✚ *What moved me (inspired, challenged, encouraged, consoled) in this passage?*

Connections (15-20 mins)

The Connections segment is about connecting the message from Scripture to your own daily life. This is a time of making connections and sharing thoughts, feelings and images:

- ✚ *What are the promptings of the Spirit?*
- ✚ *What is a message for me in the reality of my own life, and relationships?*
- ✚ *What is a message for me in relation to my work, my neighbourhood, and my church community?*
- ✚ *What is a message for me in relation to the world and its environment?*

Mission (15-20 mins)

The Mission segment is a time when each member has an opportunity to reflect on what ACTION needs to be taken during the next week or in the time before the group gathers again.

- ✚ How does the Gospel (or Scripture text) challenge me?
- ✚ What do I need to do in my life to make God's reign more of a reality?

Sending Forth (5-10 mins)

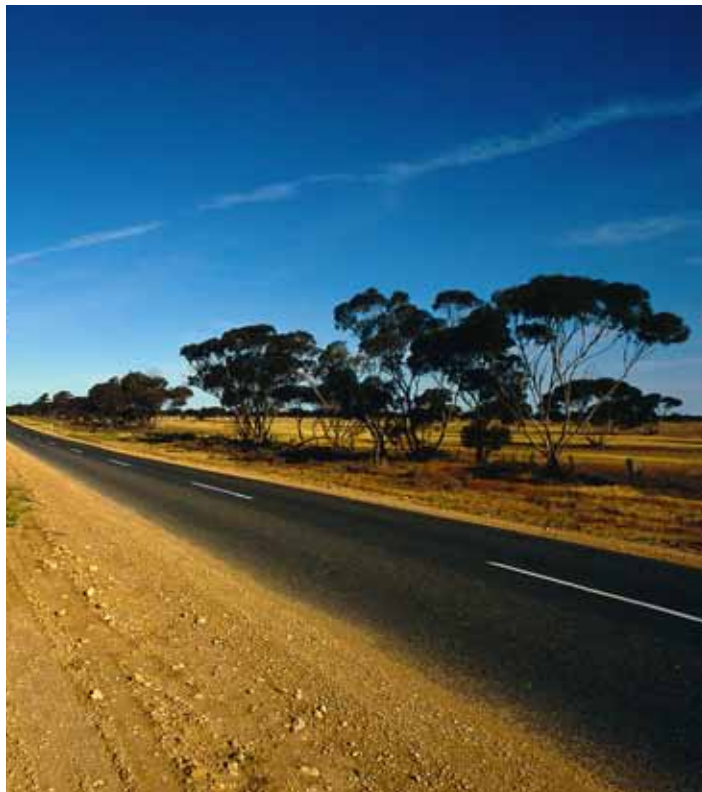
After reflection on the Gospel and sharing with each other, members of the group now bring the meeting time to a close.

Members have listened to many things shared with the group. This is a time to pray for each other and offer support to each other as they now go back into the mission field – homes, neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and church community.

The group may have a prayer of 'sending forth' that they pray over each other at the end of each meeting. There are some suggestions on page ???

For the Church, evangelising means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new'. But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel.

(Evangelii Nuntiandi #18)



Participating in Small Groups



Contributing to Small Groups

Small faith sharing groups involve the whole person – their values and lived experience and faithful living of the Gospel.

Members of Small Groups are able to integrate the Christian story, deepen their understanding and receptiveness to the call of the Gospel. They engage in 'living faith' – not just 'learning about faith'.

Those who are members of a small group participate in and contribute to the group in a variety of ways:

- ✚ by being inclusive and welcoming to support all members of the group
- ✚ by developing a prayerful environment to be aware of God's presence in the group
- ✚ by recognising and valuing the impact of everyday Christian living to help build a better world
- ✚ by striving for open and invitational sharing
- ✚ by learning skills to become effective communicators and listeners
- ✚ by encouraging the small group to nurture and support the faith journey of each participant and

- ✚ by embracing the person and vision of Jesus to bring about the reign of God in the here and now.

Principles of Adult Faith Learning

Adults are able to share their faith and learn most effectively when:

- ✚ they are treated with respect as self-directed persons
- ✚ they interact with one another in the learning process
- ✚ they are in a supportive environment
- ✚ programs take account of their real concerns, their genuine needs and interests
- ✚ the range of experience, the wisdom and skills that people bring is acknowledged and celebrated
- ✚ they are involved in the planning and in the processes
- ✚ they have access to information in clear language
- ✚ there is a variety in the teaching, learning and communication processes
- ✚ discussions engage real life situations that reflect the preoccupations, the hopes and the fears of those taking part.



Small groups assist adults to LISTEN to each other.

Effective and careful listening to others:

- ✚ brings about change in people's lives
- ✚ assists others to hear more carefully what they themselves are saying
- ✚ gives attention to the other
- ✚ helps set aside our own 'internal dialogue', in order to 'hear' the other's story.

Leadership of Small Groups



Formed Informed & Transformed Leadership

The renewal of parishes and the implementation of Jesus Communion Mission can be achieved by developing a culture of formed, informed and transformed leadership. This must be intentional and planned. *Let Your Light Shine* (© 2004) offers a model for parish planning.

When intentionally planning for renewal it is ideal to first and foremost, gather the group leaders! They are experienced in prayer and intentional Christian living. This sets any renewal in an environment of prayer, reflection and collaborative discernment. Inviting leaders of Small Groups to be part of the vision and planning for the Parish. Communication is the key to creating a collaborative and supportive group. If leaders of small groups feel welcomed, included and valued, this will have a flow on effect to all the members of the groups who too will feel valued members of the wider community.

It is important to keep an eye out for possible new small group leaders to begin forming them for the role as new groups are formed. They can be invited to assist in leading a group and be guided and supported by the more experienced leaders.

Formation and evangelisation of group leaders, keeping them envisioned regarding church mission and strategy is critical to the successful formation of small groups and in turn the parish community. It is beneficial to the group of Leaders to have a facilitator who is responsible for organising gatherings and formation for them. This does not mean that the facilitator has the skills to do the formation but rather has skills to organise those who can. Small group leaders, as those in any parish ministry, need to be cared for and supported in their role.

When leaders are valued they are feel a deep sense of belonging and are able to share in a spirit of servant leadership. In turn parishes

become vibrant life-giving communities seeking to live *Jesus Communion Mission*.

Gifts for Small Group Leadership

Small Group leaders will model gifts such as:

- ✚ a strong personal faith life
- ✚ an ability to embracing Core and Gospel values
- ✚ a passion for evangelisation
- ✚ an ability to communicate the vision and priorities of the parish
- ✚ an ability to team build
- ✚ an ability to involve assistants
- ✚ an ability to teach about community
- ✚ an open, invitational and welcoming attitude
- ✚ valuing the place of story - personal, community and God Stories

This is not an exhaustive list nor is it restrictive. While these are all ideals to be achieved it is a given that there would not be any one person who is able to demonstrate all of these gifts. It is assumed that each person is able to engage in ongoing formation and development.

Facilitation of Small Groups

When leading or facilitating small groups it is ideal to be able to:

- ✚ assist in building small communities which are welcoming and inclusive
- ✚ encourage trust, openness and growth of authentic relationships
- ✚ realise it is not about 'power over' and control but 'walking with' – a ministry of service and stewardship
- ✚ model effective membership
- ✚ maintain commitment to prayer and preparation for each session
- ✚ seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit when helping others to listen and respond to the word of God
- ✚ engage in a ministry which assists in building the Body of Christ.

Pitfalls to be aware of when leading Small Groups

Leaders or facilitators of small faith sharing groups ARE NOT:

- ✚ Theologians. The nature of the meeting is faith sharing. Should a theological question arise which the group cannot answer, the leader may suggest ways for members to research the answer for sharing at the next meeting. The priest or other qualified people may be a great resource.
- ✚ Counsellors. Again, small faith sharing groups are not meant to solve problems of individuals. It is a time of friendship and faith sharing. Counselling requires a specific set of skills and knowledge.
- ✚ Teachers. All members of the group in some way 'teach' themselves and each other by the processes that they engage in. No one person is the 'holder of the truth' and to teach, requires a specific set of skills and talent.

Servant Leadership

A small group leader or facilitator is the person appointed and recognised to serve the group by enabling the members to achieve their purpose for being a group. S/he plays a pivotal role through assisting the group to get launched, establish a heading and gain momentum. The role assumes leading a group is about serving others, and demonstrating functional behaviours and specified skills.

Serving as leader includes:

- ✚ recognising your own spiritual gifts and charisms
- ✚ explaining purpose and vision
- ✚ initiating structure for meetings/gatherings
- ✚ clarifying expectations
- ✚ encouraging participation
- ✚ organising details
- ✚ attending planning and learning opportunities for group leaders
- ✚ evaluating progress.

Functional Skills of Servant Leadership

When serving as leader you will need to perform certain functional behaviours which include:

- ✚ encouragement – friendliness, warmth, responsiveness to others
- ✚ connecting with the parish
- ✚ gate-keeping – making it possible for all to make a contribution to the group
- ✚ standard setting – choosing content suitable for the group
- ✚ following – knowing when to lead and when to follow the wisdom of the group
- ✚ expressing group feelings – summarising what group feelings seem to be
- ✚ evaluating – measuring achievements against goals
- ✚ consensus testing – being intuitive to individual's opinions
- ✚ harmonising – mediating differences, tension reducing, easing negative feelings.

More specific skills of a servant leader may include:

- ✚ creating an environment conducive to prayer and open sharing
- ✚ practising hospitality
- ✚ communicating/listening
- ✚ leading discussion
- ✚ enabling/facilitating group decision making
- ✚ understanding and leading group process/dynamics
- ✚ practising (modelling) openness and caring
- ✚ planning and leading group meetings
- ✚ managing conflict and problems.

*... therefore encourage one another
and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.*

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Models of Prayer for use in Small Groups



Conversational Prayer

Conversational prayer needs to flow in a gentle and non-threatening way. Begin with quiet music and lead the group through each step as you sense everyone is finished the previous step.

- ✚ *Invite group members to acknowledge the presence of God. It is in God's presence that we gather as one ... It is in Jesus' presence that we gather as one ... It is in the Spirit's presence that we gather as one.*
- ✚ *After a short period of silence, invite participants to share their prayers of gratitude and thanks to God for the many gifts that we have been gifted with this day.*
- ✚ *Next, invite participants to ask God for their own needs and pray for the gifts to bring about God's kingdom here on earth – in our own daily lives.*
- ✚ *Finally, invite participants to hold up to God all those in need – those we know and those we do not know – and ask God to bless them in ways we cannot imagine.*
- ✚ *Bring this time of prayer to a close by praying together the 'Our Father' or 'Glory Be', or one of the 'Blessing and Prayers for Sending Forth' in this resource (see page 19).*

SOAP

A 'clean' approach to reflection on the Scriptures, both individually and within a small group setting.

- ✚ **S***cripture*: a time to read and re-read with new eyes, ears and heart to the passage of the day.
- ✚ **O***bservation*: What is it in the Scripture passage that catches my senses – time, place, people, climate, geography, atmosphere, how, when, where of the passage?

✚ **A***pplication*: How is this applied to my own life, my relationships, the actions I need to take?

✚ **P***rayer*: What prayer does this Scripture passage evoke in me?

Five Candles: Framework for reflecting on the Gospels

Begin by creating an atmosphere of quiet. Allow a couple of minutes of the 'active silence' before you begin to read the Gospel (Scripture).

Encourage people to listen to their 'heart's' response to what they hear in the Gospel.

Encourage each other during this prayer time not to discuss or comment on what is shared, but simply to listen to each other.

Light a candle for a quiet and gentle way of moving through each of the steps of the framework.

- ✚ **A***ctive Silence*: Be aware of yourself as a member of this group, of this community, of this world.
- ✚ **G***reeting the Word*: One person reads the Gospel out slowly and prayerfully. Allow a short silence and then another member of the group reads the Gospel a second time.
- ✚ **E***cho*: Ask yourself what words come to your attention as you listen to the Gospel. What words echo in your heart? Share just this word(s) with those present. There is no discussion at this stage.
- ✚ **S***haring*: Each person shares prayerfully what they believe God is calling US to in this Gospel. This time is more a sharing than discussion.
- ✚ **P***rayer*: Close with community shared prayer. This is a time of unrushed quiet to allow people time to pray as they feel comfortable.

Reflective Practice Model:

In this model participants are encouraged to use individual life experiences to reflect upon their call and mission.

✚ Step One: What?
Reflection upon own life experience: what do each of my senses tell me about this experience?

✚ Step Two: So What?
Develop understanding in light of group wisdoms, the Scriptures and God's call to me.

✚ Step Three: What Now?
Plan and take action: how might I engage in God's mission through this experience?

Every Day with Jesus – Participants guide for Young People © 2007

... I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.

(Philippians 1:6)



... let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God called you.

(1 Corinthians 7:17)



Prayers for gathering in Small Groups



PrayerFire

Holy Spirit of Fire

Open our hearts and the hearts of all people to know you, the original heart on fire.

Holy Spirit of Fire

Fire us with your energy and passion for living the good news of Jesus in our homes, our workplaces, and society.

Holy Spirit of Fire

Give us courage to face the challenge of the Gospel to our ways of thinking, being and acting.

Holy Spirit of Fire

Unite us with the great company of saints strengthening and sustaining our zeal for the life and mission of our Church in this time and place.

Holy Spirit of Fire

Set our hearts on fire. Amen.

(© Archdiocese of Brisbane, 2000)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit of Life

Brood over this Great Southland inspire us to live in peace and harmony with one another.

Come Holy Spirit of Love

Inscribe compassion on our hearts; open our eyes and ears to the cries of those who suffer.

Come Holy Spirit of Fire

Stir with us the flame of passion; gift us with courage to strive for justice.

Come Holy Spirit of Truth

Stretch our dreams and hopes across the globe; draw us into the wonder and mystery of the holy ground of creation.

Come Holy Spirit of Unity

Bind us together as one family; full of the joy and peace that comes from knowing Jesus Christ.

(Mike Humphrys, 1998.
Year of Great Jubilee Office)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Be present with us, O Holy Spirit, for it is in your name that we are specially gathered together.

Come to help us in our affairs, and be pleased to enter into our deliberations.

Instruct us in what we should do.

Let it be you first of all, who inspire our suggestions.

May you who love justice let us not offend against justice or charity.

Grant also that we may act intelligently.

Keep us by the gift of your grace in harmony with your will, so that we may act as one with you, who lives and reigns with God forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*All-Holy One,
Consoler Spirit,
Spirit of Truth,*

*present everywhere and filling all things,
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, gathered here,
be present in each one of us,
fill us with your wisdom and love,
help us to treasure your presence in each other as we begin this time together.*

*Come dwell in us,
cleanse us and save us
you who are all-good,
be the source of our life.*

Amen.

(Adapted Byzantine Liturgy)

Glory to God

*Glory be to God,
whose power working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can
ever ask or imagine.*

Glory be to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Prayers for Mission



Ephesians 1:15-19

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe. Amen.

(New Revised Standard Version)

Ephesians 3:7-9

[May each of us in this coming week] become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given ... by the working of God's power. ... God's grace was given to [us] to bring to [all peoples] the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.' [Through us] may the wisdom of God in its rich variety ... be made known to [all]. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God will grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that

surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(New Revised Standard Version)

Romans 8:22-30

We know that the whole of creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:

*Let [our] love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
[Let us] love one another with mutual affection;
Outdo one another in showing honour.*

*[Let us] not lag in zeal,
but be ardent in spirit,
serving God.*

*[Let us] rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.*

*[Let us] contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.
Bless those who persecute [us];
bless and do not curse them.*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice,
[and] weep with those who weep.
Amen.*

(New Revised Standard Version)

Ephesians 4:11-16

It was God who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

to prepare God's people for works of service.

[May each of us] prepare ourselves so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God.

[May we become] mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

[May we] no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Instead, may we speak the truth in love, so that we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

[May God creator of all things, bless us. May Christ who is the head of our body, bless us.

May God's Spirit who empowers us, bless us.]

Amen.

(New International Version)

Philippians 1:3-11

Let us pause and name each person in the group ...

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

And this is [our] prayer, that [our] love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help [us] to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ [we] may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through

Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. Amen.

(New Revised Standard Version)

Colossians 2:2-10

... May [we] be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that [we] may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that [we] may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Just as [we] received Christ Jesus as Lord, may we continue to live in him, be rooted and built up in him, be strengthened in the faith as we were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Amen.

(New International Version)

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, [may we] clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

May we bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven [us], so you also must forgive. Above all, [may we] clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, to which indeed we were called in the one body.

And may [we] be always thankful. May the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly; May [we] teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in [our] hearts [may we] sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever [we] do, in word or deed, let [us] do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.

(New Revised Standard Version)

 **Sending Forth**

*Creator God,
in your wisdom you created us,
by your providence you rule us.*

*Penetrate our inner most being
with your holy light,*

*so that our way of life may always be
one of faithful service to you.*

*As we go forth from this group
bless each one of us
to live our lives according
to your law of love
and your reign of mercy and compassion.
Amen.*



Directory of Groups in the Archdiocese of Brisbane



Below is a list of groups found in Parishes throughout the Archdiocese. It is not exhaustive. Some have explanations and contact numbers. Others do not have this but are offered by means of suggestions when trying to establish your Parish OF Small Groups.

Adult Faith Education Groups

Many Parishes have their own AFE Groups. If you are looking to establish one in your parish assistance can be sought.

For information including programs, resources, processes and parish planning contact the Archdiocesan AFE Team:

Rob Cosgrove	07 3336 9163
Trish Stapleton	07 3336 9164
John Coles	07 3336 9165
Tricia Gimpel	07 3336 9166
Susan Seaton	07 3336 9180

Adoration Group

Adoration groups are generally organised locally and have times set apart when parishioners are able to participate in prayer and adoration before the Blessed

Sacrament. You can contact the parish in your local community using the white pages telephone directory or enquiring online at: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=10693>

Antioch

Antioch is a parish based youth to youth ministry, for young people. An adult parent couple supports each group. Antioch begins with a weekend experience and has a strong, ongoing opportunity to listen, discuss and better understand what it means to be a Catholic today. Antioch aims to help young people develop a love of Jesus and of his church through an experience of community www.antioch.org.au (02) 9349 1710

Babysitting

Babysitting is often a ministry of individual parishes organised by interested parents within a parish often on a credit / debit of hours children have been babysat. Because it is a local ministry there is no website as

such. If interested you might like to enquire of your local parish community in which you live.

Baptism Visitors

Also known as Mary Visits (as in Mary visiting Elizabeth) or Baptism Buddies is operating in several parishes in the Archdiocese. It is a way of connecting with families who otherwise may feel disconnected and unsure of what is needed when asking for infant Baptism for their child. It is a ministry of outreach to assist in families feeling welcoming and included in the parish community and assist in any way that young families need.

Beginning Theology

This is an introduction to theology and is designed for anyone who has no formal theological background or who wishes to benefit from an introduction to theology in the Catholic Tradition. It is conducted in small cluster groups and is supported by a mentor. For more information Ph. 07 3336 9179 Web: <http://bne.catholic.net.au/ife>

Bible Study

Bible study is available in many forms and through the use of many resources. The most effective for parish communities is through the use of small faith sharing groups. For resources and options and planning Ph. 07 3336 9164

CaFE

Catholic Faith Exploration is a series of resources used in small faith sharing groups to assist in understanding the Catholic Faith. Usually run in 6-8 week blocks each resource deals with a different subject. Contact ERDU: Ph. 07 3285 6233 www.evangelisationresources.com

Camping Group

Cancer Support

Care & Concern

Catholic Bushwalkers

Catholic Women's Group

Catholics Returning Home

CRH is a ministry of Compassion and Reconciliation. It is a six week support program assisting Catholics to return to the active practice of their Faith. Leaders of these small group undergo training and formation in our to lead these groups sensitively and compassionately. For General Enquiries and Resource Orders contact: Everyday Mission Ph:(07) 3336 9323 Email: em.fl@bne.catholic.net.au For practical assistance with Training or Running the Program contact Jan or Kathy at: Ph. (07) 32856233 Email: erdu@hotmail.net.au

Celebrate Love

In two packed days, learn some of the most up-to-date ideas and skills on offer, and in the process, rediscover the joy of being a man and woman in love. Marriage doesn't have to be all hard work; learn to celebrate your differences and be the best you can be ... together!

Contact: Mike & Lisa Humphrys
Ph (07) 3265 2752 (h) (07)3336 9340 (w)
Email: humpml@tpg.com.au
Website: <http://celebratelove.com.au>

Charismatic Prayer

A movement within the Catholic Church that seeks to foster an awareness of the gift of God's Spirit and to help people develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Children's Liturgy

Children's liturgy is organised in individual parishes. Contact your local parish

CLC (Christian Life Communities)

An international lay community inspired by the spirituality and mission of St Ignatius of Loyola. It promotes the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius and provides training for spiritual direction. For enquiries about CLC in Queensland contact Steve Cunningham by phone

(07) 3278 1890 or by email
pharmacy@powerup.com.au

Communication/ Media group

Cursillo

A Cursillo Weekend is an encounter with Christ. That sounds too simple, but it's not. Think about it: A real meeting with Christ. If

that is understood, the power, beauty and joy of the Cursillo Movement will be understood.

Contact info@cursillobrisbane.com

CWL

Catholic Women's League, which was formerly the Catholic Daughters of Australia, was founded by the late Archbishop Duhig on 10 September 1927. It was formed to promote the spiritual, cultural, intellectual and social development of women and children. The archdiocesan office is in the Catholic Centre.

Divine Mercy

<http://www.paulinefathers.org/eng/index.htm>

East Timor Group

Edmund Rice

Emmanuel Catholic Covenant Community

Network of Catholics who support each other in the development of their personal and community faith journeys. It is a member of an international group of Catholic Covenant communities known as the Catholic Fraternity.

Extraordinary Ministry of Communion

Family Groups

FOCUS

The Fellowship of Catholic United Singles organises a series of social events for singles.

Finance Council

Flowers/Environment

Friendship groups

Garden Club

God Start

Home Prayer

Joshua Prayer Communities and Ministries:

Brisbane based network of Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups in parishes and homes with some outreach activities.

liangperngseow@ozemail.com.au

Knights of the Southern Cross

A lay apostolate for men dedicated to the public defence of the Catholic faith and support of church organisations via fundraising. Incorporates Southern Cross Care which provides home-based health care and hostel care.

- ✚ **Lay Led Liturgy**
- ✚ **Legion of Mary**
- ✚ **Lent and Advent Small Groups**
- ✚ **Liturgy Team**
- ✚ **Liturgy of Hours**
- ✚ **Majellan Club**
- ✚ **Marian Devotion**
- ✚ **Marriage Encounter**

The focus for these groups is on married couples growing together in their spirituality. They usually meet once a month in a couple's home. Some share a meal but this is not necessary. At each meeting one couple prepares some input and this is followed by discussion. The meeting concludes with prayer. Various resources may be used for relationship development. The contact details for Marriage Encounter in Queensland are: Giles and Roselyn Mamet stark@satnav.com.au and Mike and Lesley Griffin, 4787 2408 or mikelesley@bigpond.com

- ✚ **Meditation: Australian Christian Meditation Community**

A worldwide network of people who follow the mantra meditation approach developed by Fr John Main OSB. Groups of meditators meet regularly to deepen their spiritual growth.
www.christiancommunityaustralia.org

- ✚ **menALIVE**

menALIVE was founded in response to a great need evident today in the hearts and lives of men and a great need in the life of the Church. While many of the issues discussed apply to women equally the chosen focus is men – often less active or present in today's Church. We believe the Church is waiting for men to wake up, to become fully alive and to take their place among the people of God and in God's world.

'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.'
(John 10:10)

Peter Shakhovskoy 0409 479 373
Robert Falzon 0412 745 734

- ✚ **Mothers Prayers** originated in England in 1995 and has now by the power of the Holy Spirit spread to over 80 countries. It meets

mothers and grandmothers at their point of need. It is such a blessing for them to be able to share in a Christian confidential way, and through the weekly meetings, great love and compassion develops. Anything shared is confidential and no advice is given. As mothers learn to trust each other, through their prayer and sharing together, their burdens become lighter.

Mothers Prayers Motto: "Mothers Love conquers the world" and "United in Prayer we save our children."

For more information ph Rosa Montegrando 07 3886 1661

- ✚ **Movement for a Better World**

A worldwide association of lay people, religious and priests offering retreats and ongoing renewal and formation.

- ✚ **Neighbourhood Church**

Having an 'attitude of abundance' approach to church, it is about ongoing relationships. Parish is divided into geographical small neighbourhoods who are supported by a visiting team who are formed and trained. Groups are used to support sacrament preparation and meet in homes in the neighbourhood.

- ✚ **Neo-Catechumenate**

An international movement which provides scripture-based formation and an experience of a community within the parish community. It challenges its members to evangelise others, especially Catholics who no longer worship.

- ✚ **No Interest Savings & Loans**

- ✚ **Novena Group**

- ✚ **Parish Pastoral Council**

- ✚ **Passionist Family Group Movement**

An international organisation established in Sydney in 1973 which promotes family life and fosters parish community by incorporating individuals and families into extended family groups.

- ✚ **Playgroup**

- ✚ **Prayer Network**

- ✚ **Prayer/Lunch Group**

- ✚ **RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) refers to the way in which adults are brought into membership of the Catholic

Church. It is a gradual process which includes learning about the Catholic faith in small groups and celebrating liturgical rites at different stages of the journey.

Contact: Ph 07 3336 9442

Rosary

Rosary groups exist in most parishes and are very much part of our Catholic culture. For information contact your local parish community.

Rosies

Rosies is a community of people sharing the Oblate Spirit of daring. Inspired by the Gospel, Rosies reaches out to those most abandoned and marginalised on the streets and to be present with them, offering them experiences of community and belonging.

For information: <http://www.rosies.org.au/>

Sacramental Team

Scripture Study

Seafarers

Singles & Solos

Seniors Groups

Social Justice

St Vincent de Paul

The involvement of young people in the Society's works is important for the organisation. Young people are a vital membership component of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Queensland. Some belong to Young Adult Conferences (local youth branches); others are part of a Conference that caters to all ages; some are involved in School or University-based Conferences; and others are part of a Special Works.

www.vinnies.org.au/youth/ (07) 3010 1000

Teams

Teams – a Christian Married Couples' Movement is an ongoing marriage enrichment experience which becomes a

'way of life'. 1000 couples in Australia and almost 50,000 couples worldwide have been supported in their relationship as a couple through Teams which is unique in that it focuses on couple spirituality, as well as personal spirituality.

For information Sue and Bren Milsom
Ph 5522 4880. milsoms@inet.net.au

Welcome and Inclusion Committee

Widows and Single women

Young Christian Students (YCS)

YCS is a movement of secondary school students. YCS groups use the See-Judge-Act process to form and empower students with a truly active Christian faith, based on the Gospel. YCS provides both faith and leadership formation so students can take action in a way that lives out their faith and makes a real difference in the world.

Contact: www.aycs.org.au (07) 3368 4998

YCW (Young Christian Workers)

YCW is a movement of young people under 30. YCW believes that every young person has a mission in the world and that each of us is called to take actions that bring about the Kingdom of God amongst our own families, workplaces and communities. YCW forms people to do this by challenging young people to see how the Gospel applies to their lives and to take actions that live this out.

Contact www.ycw.org.au (03) 9489 4387

Youth Groups

Contact: Malcolm Hart Ph 07 3336 9169

Ycm.fl@bne.catholic.net.au

Young Adults Groups

Contact: Malcolm Hart Ph 07 3336 9169

Ycm.fl@bne.catholic.net.au



Resources



A Sample of Songs and Reflective Music

'A Journey Remembered', *A Journey Remembered*, Kevin Bates sm

'A Trusting Psalm', *A Journey Remembered*, Kevin Bates sm

'Be Still, My Friends', *Eagle's Wings*, Frank Andersen, msc

'Bless the Lord', *Songs and Prayers from Taize*, 1991

'Come to the Water', *Eagle's Wings*, Frank Andersen, msc

'Create a New Heart', *Forever I Will Sing*, Michael Mangan, 2004

'Gather Us O God', *Holy Ground*, Monica Brown, 2000

'God of Truth', *A Journey Remembered*, Kevin Bates sm

'Help Me Know Your Ways' (Ps 25), *Forever I Will Sing*, Michael Mangan, 2004

'Holy Ground', *Holy Ground*, Monica Brown, 2000

'Holy Spirit Come', Michael Mangan, 2007

'Holy Spirit of Fire', *Setting Hearts on Fire*, Michael Mangan, 1999

'How I Long for You', *Forever I Will Sing*, Michael Mangan, 2004

'In the Lord', *Songs and Prayers from Taize*, 1991

'In the Silence', *Quiet My Soul*, Monica Brown, 2003

'In Your Spirit Gather Us', *Quiet My Soul*, Monica Brown, 2003

'Into the Garden', *Arise! Awake!*, Trisha Watts, 1992

'Jesus Remember Me', *Laudate*, Jacques Berthier, Music of Taize

'Justly Tenderly Humbly', *This is the Time*, Michael Mangan, 1998

'O Lord Hear My Prayer', *Laudate*, Jacques Berthier, Music of Taize

'Peace for all Time', Michael Mangan 2007

'Quiet My Soul', *Quiet My Soul*, Monica Brown, 2003

'Spirit Gently Come', *Spirit Gently Come*, Dianne Simmons, Kerry Morehue

'St Teresa's Prayer', *Setting Hearts on Fire*, Michael Mangan, 2001

'Stay Here', *Laudate*, Jacques Berthier, Music of Taize

'Summoned by Love', *Arise! Awake!*, Trisha Watts, 1992

'The Fullness of God', *Eagle's Wings*, Frank Andersen, msc

'This is the Time', *This is the Time*, Michael Mangan, 1998

'Veni Sante Spiritus' *Songs and Prayers from Taize*, 1991

'We Turn to You', *This is the Time*, Michael Mangan, 1993

'You are My Shepherd', *Forever I Will Sing*, Michael Mangan, 2004

'Your Words' (Ps 19), *Forever I Will Sing*, Michael Mangan, 2004

CD: *Holy Ground – Mantras and Chants*, Monica Brown, 2000

... but that you be united in the one mind and the same purpose.

(1 Corinthians 1:10)



Resources For Use in Reflecting on Scripture

Break Open the Word, Barry Copley, Therese D'Arcy, The Liturgical Commission, email: orders@litcom.net.au

Daily Prayer 2007, Robert C. Rabe, David J Cronin, Liturgy Training Publications. Available from St Paul's Books, Elizabeth St, Brisbane. Ph 3336 9442 (Annual publication for each year)

PrayerTime (Year A, B, C) Faith-Sharing Reflections on the Sunday Gospels, RENEW International, Plainfield, New Jersey. Available AFE Team, Faith & Life. Ph 3336 9181. (Annual publication for each year)

Summit magazine, Office of Worship, Archdiocese of Melbourne. Ph 03 9412 3325, fax 03 9412 3330, email: worship@melbourne.catholic.org.au

Small Groups Websites

Small Christian Communities:

http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/scc/catholic_teaching_on_scc.cfm

Buena Vista: (now called SCCConnect)

Links to small Christian communities.

<http://www.renewintl.org/SmallChristianComm/index.htm#Buena>

Small Communities in Parish Life:

<http://www.nplc.org/smallcommunities.htm>

Archdiocese of Brisbane, Holy Spirit Prayer Campaign:

<http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/comeholyspirit/>

The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelisation ... through the Holy Spirit the Gospel penetrates the heart of the world.

(Evangelii Nuntiandi # 75)





Bibliography for Small Groups & Parish Renewal

A Pastor's Guide to Whole Catechesis, Bill Heusch, Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, CT © 2004

A Practical Guide for Starting an Adult Faith Formation Program, Richard C. Brown, Resource Publications Inc., San Jose, California 2003

Called to Lead – Leadership Development in Small Community Context, 1. Scripture and the Church, Suzanne Golas csjp, Paulist Press, New York 1994

Coaches Handbook, Bill Donohue, ed, Willow Creek Small Groups Team, Zondervan, Grand Rapids. Michigan 49530 1995

Coordinator's Manual: Little Rock Scripture Study, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321 1994

Enrichment Workshop Workbook: Little Rock Scripture Study, LRSS, Little Rock, Arkansas

Facilitating for Growth – a Guide for Scripture Study Groups and SCCs Barbara J. Fleischer, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1993

Horizons and Hopes – The Future of Religious Education, Thomas H. Groome & Harold Daly Horell (ed), Paulist Press, New York, 2003

How to Lead Small Groups, Neal F McBride, NavPress, USA, 1990

Leading Life-changing Small Groups, Bill Donohue, Willow Creek Small Groups Team, Zondervan, Grand Rapids. Michigan 49530 1994

Re-Imagining Evangelisation – Toward the Reign of God and the Communal Parish, Patrick J. Brennan, Crossroad, New York, 1995

Small Christian Communities – A Vision for the 21st Century, Kleissler, LeBert & McGuinness, Paulist Press, New York, 1997

The Small Group Book – A Practical Guide for Nurturing Christians and Building Churches, Dale Galloway and Kathi Mills, Fleming H Revell Press, 1995

Toward An Adult Church – A Vision of Faith Formation, Jane E Regan, Loyola Press, Chicago, © 2002

Whole Community Catechesis – in Plain English, Bill Heusch, Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, CT, © 2002

... but that you be united in the one mind and the same purpose.

(1 Corinthians 1:10)

