



Creating Ministerial Communities

How-tos

1. How to generate interest in ministerial communities instead of committees:
 - Invite someone from a group that is a ministerial community to share his or her experiences with a ministry group that does not see itself as a community.
 - Gather the leaders of ministries and help them set goals for their groups. Give them opportunities for sharing, prayer, and study during such a meeting.
2. How to foster new formats for meetings:
 - Ministry group members can bring a prayer, a piece of spiritual reading, or a Scripture passage. Then ask the leader if this can be shared with the group. Be very brief.
 - Evaluate what parts of current meetings are most helpful and what other elements people would like to add. Compare the results with a written example of the way meetings are structured elsewhere.
 - Choose one or two ministries to assist in moving toward ministerial community.
3. How to grow toward a ministry model that includes Christo-centric formation, prayer, study, and ministry training:
 - Add one element of ministerial communities to group meetings for six months. Faith sharing based on the Sunday Scriptures using *PrayerTime* (RENEW International) is a good element to use as a starting point. Then add a second element as a later goal. Order at: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/pta.html> (A)
<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/pta.html> (C)
 - Offer an afternoon or evening of reflection apart from regular meetings, so the faith that exists in the group can be deepened. Allow time for faith sharing, especially if this is something new for most people.
 - Contact your parish and/or (arch)diocesan office for additional information. Look for opportunities to attend a workshop, bring in a speaker, or offer further study on the topic to parishioners. For example, consider downloading the workshop, *Creating Ministerial Communities* at www.ParishLife.com.
 - Contact RENEW International to schedule a speaker to come to your parish to present a workshop on how to form ministerial communities. Contact Michael Fabian: SCCServices@renewintl.org; (908) 769-5400 ex 144.