

Creating Ministerial Communities

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Passages cited in the text are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.)

Numbers 11:25-29	Moses asks for the spirit to come upon all the elders
1 Samuel 10:10-13	The spirit of God rushed upon Saul and the prophets
Isaiah 53:1-11	The suffering servant of the Lord
Colossians 1:15-20	Jesus reconciles all things
John 15:1-17	The vine and the branches
1 Peter 2:4-10	Living stones in God's house
Ephesians 2:8-10, 13-19	Brought together in Christ
Matthew 5:13-16	Light and salt for the world
Philippians 2:1-11	Work at unity and self-emptying
Romans 12:1-2	Transformed minds

Conciliar Documents

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

- 2: God's plan and the Church
- 4: The Spirit dwells in the Church
- 7: Building the Body of Christ
- 12: Living witness of the people of God
- 30-33: Apostolate of the laity
- 40-41: Call to holiness

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

- 32: Importance of our communal nature
- 40-44: Bringing faith into the world

Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (Apostolicam actuositatem)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651118_apostolicam-actuositatem_en.html

- 2-4: Vocation flows from Trinity and sacraments
- 6-7: Announcing the gospel and transforming the world
- 10: Apostolate in the parish
- 18: Mission in small groups
- 29-30: Importance of formation for ministry

Papal Documents

The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People (Christifideles laici), John Paul II, December 30, 1988.

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici_en.html

Discusses the vocation and the mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in the world. Presents an awareness of the baptismal call to ministry that makes the Church both sign and instrument of God's presence. We are the Body of Christ, called to sanctify the world from within.

On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii nuntiandi), Paul VI, December 8, 1975.

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_en.html

The Church exists to continue Christ's mission of evangelization. As members of the Church, we are called to be evangelizers in everyday life. The definitive document on evangelization and its importance to the Church. Has many quotable passages.

Mission of the Redeemer (Redemptoris missio), John Paul II, January, 1990.

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_07121990_redemptoris-missio_en.html

A thorough explanation of how we share in the mission of Jesus and bring about the reign of God. Attention is given to the way we relate to the cultures and needs of the world.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

- #422-429 Belief in Jesus is central
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c2.htm>
- #748-750 Belief in the Church
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c3a9.htm>
- #751-757 Images of the Church
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>
- #770-780 Origin and mission of the Church
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>
- #781-81 Nature of the Church as people of God
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p2.htm>
- #897-913 Laity and mission
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p4.htm>
- #1262-1274 Baptismal life
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm>
- #1302-1310 Confirmation - the Holy Spirit is given for growth and action
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a2.htm>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Documents

Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium (November 1995). United States Catholic Conference, Inc.
www.usccb.org/laity/calleden.htm

An anniversary booklet with a vision of lay ministry in its many forms, as well as a more complete description of the calls to holiness, to community, to mission and to Christian maturity.

Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States (November 18, 1992). United States Catholic Conference, Inc. (A study version of this text is also available from the National Council for Catholic Evangelization at www.catholic-evangelization.org/)

A readable description of Catholic evangelization and its relevance to every aspect of parish life.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry: The State of the Questions. A Report of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Subcommittee on Lay Ministry Committee on the Laity, (June 25, 2000)
<http://www.usccb.org/laity/laymin/layecclesial.htm>

It is the report from a multiyear study of lay people working in full- and part-time paid positions in the Church.

Our Hearts Were Burning within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States (November 17, 1999). United States Catholic Conference, Inc.

www.usccb.org/education/ourhearts.htm

An important exhortation to pursue faith formation on every level of parish life. Offers both vision and practical guidelines for making learning a regular part of parish life.

Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century

Kleissler, Thomas A., Margo A. LeBert, Mary C. McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century*, revised and updated. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997.

(To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>)

Pages 92-104 describe the vision of ministerial community, pages 230-245 explore prayer forms for small groups, pages 246-56 offer insights on the mission of the small community.

Books

Chiffolo, Anthony. *At Prayer with the Saints*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 1998. An extensive collection of saints' prayers arranged by prayers of adoration, sorrow, petition, thanksgiving.

Forte, Bruno. *The Church: Icon of the Trinity*. Boston, MA: St. Paul Books and Media, 1991. Offers an insightful appreciation of the mystery that we call "Church." An insightful and inspiring overview of how Vatican II documents have reshaped and re-envisioned Church life.

Gerding, Susan Blum, Ed.D. and Frank DeSiano, CSP. *Lay Ministers, Lay Disciples: Evangelizing Power in the Parish*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1999. A practical introduction to ministry as a way to exercise and express our faith in Jesus, the Christ.

Hater, Robert J. *Catholic Evangelization: the Heart of Ministry*. Dubuque, Iowa: Harcourt Religion Publishers, 2001. This book presents a clear explanation of the gospel message and ideas about how to share this message with those around us.

May, William, ed. *The Church's Mission of Evangelization*. Steubenville, OH: Franciscan University Press, 1996. A series of articles on mission and the laity. Pages 265-286 on the laity are most helpful.

Sofield, Loughlan, ST and Carroll Juliano, SHCJ. *Collaborative Ministry: Skills and Guidelines*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1987. Outlines the relationship between ministry and personal growth. Proposes collaboration as the appropriate model for those in ministry.

Sofield, Loughlan, ST and Carroll Juliano, SHCJ. *Collaboration: Uniting our Gifts in Ministry*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2000. An updated look at the nuts and bolts of shared ministry. Includes group questions.

Other Resources on Ministry and the Laity

Blum, Susan W. *The Ministry of Evangelization*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1988. (800) 858-5450, <http://www.litpress.org/>, E-mail: sales@litpress.org. Everyday person's guide on Catholic evangelization as called for in "On Evangelization in the Modern World," by Pope Paul VI.

Boucher, Therese. *The New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual, Catholic Edition 2000*. Locust Grove, VA: National Service Committee, 2000. (800) 338-2445. A seven- or eight- week basic course on the baptismal call to holiness, faith sharing community and the use of gifts and charisms in ministry.

Brennan, Patrick J. *Re-imagining Evangelization: Toward the Reign of God and the Communal Parish*. New York: Crossroad, 1995. The author describes the ways that several parishes have worked at building faith community.

Brennan, Patrick J. *The Evangelizing Parish: Theologies and Strategies for Renewal*. Allen, TX: Tabor Publishing, 1987. Offers guidelines and suggestions for building ministerial community.

Coughlan, Msgr. Peter. *The Hour of the Laity, Their Expanding Role*. Newtown, Australia: E. J. Dwyer, 1989. This book provides an extensive but readable commentary on Pope John Paul II's *Apostolic Exhortation on the Laity (Christifideles laici)* with discussion questions.

DeSiano, CSP and Kenneth Boyack, CSP. *Creating the Evangelizing Parish*. Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1993. Explores some of the dynamics and guidelines for building a parish focused on reaching out to the world with God's love.

Dues, Greg and Barbara Walkey. *Called to Parish Ministry: Identity, Challenges, and Spirituality of Lay Ministry*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1995. A comprehensive book about recent changes in lay ministry and the issues we face in the future.

Mahoney, Cardinal Roger, "Parish Ministry Today: We're All in It Together," Catholic Update. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, April 2001. www.AmericanCatholic.org/Newsletter/CU/ac0401.asp An article about the baptismal call to ministry that is a sharing in the mission of Jesus.

Weddell, Sherry. *The Catholic Spiritual Gifts Resource Guide*. Seattle, WA: The Siena Institute Press, 1998. Available from the bookstore at www.siena.org. A list of some of the charisms that underlie ministry along with corresponding Scripture citations, *Catechism of the Catholic Church* references, books, and saints who exercised them.

RENEW International Materials

At Home in the Catholic Church. Charles Pinyan. Materials for six faith-sharing sessions to help Catholics recognize and appreciate the many riches of the Catholic faith and way of life.
<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/athomeimp.html>

Nerney, Catherine T., SSJ. *Lenten Longings... Cycles A, B, and C.*
A three book series designed for small faith-sharing communities looking to make the journey through Lent a liberating, healing, and transforming experience. To order:

Lenten Longings – Cycle A: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/LLCA.html>

Lenten Longings – Cycle B: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/llcb.html>

Lenten Longings – Cycle C: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/LLCC.html>

Each resource offers six weeks of opening and closing prayers, reflections on the Sunday readings, faith-sharing questions and action responses for small groups and ministries in parishes.

PrayerTime: Faith-Sharing Reflections on the Sunday Gospels. Robert Heyer, Editor. Informative and practical material that connects the Gospel of Jesus to life today. Suitable for lectionary-based faith sharing (Cycles A, B, C) at the beginning of all committee meetings and ministry gatherings. RENEW INTERNATIONAL, 1232 George Street, Plainfield, NJ 07062-1717
Phone: 908-769-5400; Fax: 908-769-5660; Orders only 888-433-3221 Web sites. E-mail: Resources@renewintl.org.

PrayerTime C: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/ptc.html>

PrayerTime A: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/pta.html>

RENEW also offers the "IMPACT Series" of booklets that cover topics of interest for specific ministry groups. The booklets include material for about six sessions each. Some of the IMPACT titles are: *Creative Aging, Strengthening Family Life, Preparing for Your Child's Baptism, and At Home in the Catholic Church.* Contact RENEW for more information at above listing. Order a set at <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/impspec.html>

Web Site Links

<http://www.usccb.org/laity/laymin/updates/01jf.htm>

National Conference of Catholic Bishops subcommittee on lay ministry publishes "Lay Ministry Updates." The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight lay ministry trends, resources, models, and other key information that may be helpful.

<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/index.html>

Renew International's bookstore of printed materials that are available for small faith-sharing groups, ministries, and committees. See previous listing.

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

Renew International's guidelines for small Christian communities. Can be used to help committees and ministry groups use Scripture for prayer and faith sharing. See previous listing.

Internet Search Tips

1. Many papal documents can be found in their entirety by typing in the name of the document on a search engine. Put the title in quotation marks.
2. Useful subjects that will yield results on a search engine include - Catholic lay ministry, parish ministry, and pastoral ministry.
3. General Catholic web sites may be helpful: www.catholic.org and www.americancatholic.org.