

Pastoring Small Community Leaders

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Scripture references are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, [Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, © 1993] and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Psalms 23	The Good Shepherd
Mark 10:43–45	Servant Leadership
Luke 10:1–12	Mission of the Seventy
John 10:1–13	Jesus, the Good Shepherd
John 14:15–18, 25–27	Holy Spirit as Guide and Teacher
Romans 12:3–18	New Life in Christ
I Corinthians 12:1–31	One Body with Many Members
Ephesians 1:15–23	Paul's Prayer
Ephesians 4:1–16	Unity in the Body of Christ
Philippians 2:1–8	Service Based in Humility
2 Timothy 1:6–7	Rekindle the Gift of Faith

Conciliar Documents

The following documents from the Second Vatican Council are foundational to our understanding of the Church and are important references for the Core Community and small community leaders.

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

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

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 Lay People (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 the Trinity and sacraments
- 10: Apostolate in the parish
- 18: Mission in small groups
- 29–30: Importance of formation for ministry

Papal Documents

The Church in America (Ecclesia in america), (January 22, 1999), John Paul II

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_22011999_ecclesia-in-america_en.html

On the encounter with the living Jesus Christ: the way to conversion, communion, and solidarity in America, which means the Church in North, Central, and South America.

- 41: Renewal of parishes and the importance of small communities
- 77–79: Importance of prayerful spirituality
- 90–91: Scripture and *lectio* as prayerful reading

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

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 evangelize in everyday life. Sections which apply to the care of leaders: 9, 13, 15, 18, 21, 23–24, 41, 58, 70, 75 and 79.

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

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

The vocation and the mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in the world

Catechism of the Catholic Church

To find the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Web, click on:

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

- #101–119 Scripture as word of God and source of inspiration
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s1c2a3.htm>
- #422–429 Belief in Jesus as central to Christian life
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c2.htm>
- #781–796 Nature of the Church as the people of God, temple of the Spirit
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p2.htm#>
- #1262–1274 Baptismal life
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm#VII>
- #2609–2616 Jesus leads us in prayer

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c1a2.htm>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Documents

Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium (November 1995), by the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

<http://www.usccb.org/laity/calleden.htm>

An anniversary booklet with a clear vision of the importance of lay ministry rooted in daily life and human needs.

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States

(November 17, 1999), by U.S. Catholic Bishops. <http://www.usccb.org/education/ourhearts.htm>

An exhortation to pursue faith formation on every level of parish life and ministry.

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

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

<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>

“A rich source of practical information about how to make the vision of the parish as ‘a community of many small communities’ come alive in today’s parish.”

Chapter 4: Proposing a Pastoral Direction: The Parish as a Community of Communities

Chapter 7: Small Christian Communities

Chapter 10: Ministry of Small Community Leadership. (See “Briefing,” pp. 181–86.)

Appendix: Implementing the Pastoral Direction of the Parish as a Community of Small Christian Communities

Books

Baard, Dr. Paul P. and Rev. Chris Aridas. *Motivating Your Church: How Any Leader Can Ignite Intrinsic Motivation and Growth*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 2001. Offers practical ways to support people in parish ministries and guidelines for fostering leadership. Reflection questions included.

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

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

Fleischer, Barbara J. *Facilitating for Growth*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1993. Offers insights on the basic skills and scriptural wisdom needed to lead a group. Includes exercises and suggested training sessions.

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

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

Hater, Rev. Robert. *News That Is Good: Evangelization for Catholics*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1990. The expanded and updated version is called *Catholic Evangelization: The Heart of Ministry*. (Dubuque, Iowa: Harcourt Religion Publishers). This classic book presents a clear explanation of the gospel message and ways to share this message with those around us.

Martin, George. *Reading Scripture as the Word of God: Practical Approaches and Attitudes*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1998. Full of suggestions about reading and understanding the Bible.

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 265–86 on the laity are most helpful.

Sofield, Loughlan, ST. *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.

RENEW International Resources

Parish Core Communities: Renewing the Face of the Earth (set of four videotapes).

<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/leadership.html>

An aid for the Parish Core Community in future planning. Topics include: *Community: As It Was in the Beginning and Is Now*; *Conversion: The Heart of the Matter*; *Small Communities: Reaching Out*; *Core Communities: Charting the Course*.

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 or <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/pta.html>; Web sites: www.renewintl.org, www.ParishLife.com; e-mail: Resources@renewintl.org.

IMPACT Series

The *IMPACT* Series aims to connect faith to the wide range of human concerns and personal issues. In the process, participants will be led not only to prayerful reflection and fruitful sharing, but also to concrete actions that influence for the better human attitudes and behaviors.

Growth through action is a basic principle in the *IMPACT* Series. In addition to encouraging discussion and sharing, this series leads to concrete action. In fact, it is suggested that, in those booklets using the social inquiry approach, two or three weeks intervene between group sessions, thus allowing members of the community time to act and make further observations in preparation for the upcoming meeting.

McGuinness, Mary C. and Thomas A. Kleissler. *Beginnings: Human and World Issues. Beginnings* explores the integration of faith and action—Christian responsibility—through reflection on a variety of topics including God's love, family, work, media, cherishing life, hunger, political responsibility, and ecology (eight sessions).

To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/beginimp.html>

Pinyan, Charles. *At Home in the Catholic Church*. Materials for six faith-sharing sessions to help Catholics recognize and appreciate the many riches of the Catholic faith and way of life.

To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/athomeimp.html>

Web Site Links

(Note: Apart from its own Web site, RENEW International is not responsible for the content of other sites listed below.)

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

United States 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. Remember to 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 that may be helpful: www.catholic.org and www.americancatholic.org.