



# Pastoring Small Community Leaders

## *What the Small Communities Need to Know*

1. Small communities hope to move forward with the vision of parish as a community of many small communities. They want to grow in their ability to welcome all into a life of shared faith and a deeper confidence in Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Small communities are at the heart of this vision. Their goal is to embrace shared prayer, attention to Scripture, conversion, and service as important ways to build Church and to serve the world around us. They are committed to learning what it means to be disciples of Jesus and to imitate him as the Good Shepherd. Strengthened in faith, they hope to provide support, or pastoring, to parish faith communities, to their families, and in their daily lives.
2. To foster the vision of small communities as a source of faith and strength, the parish has established a Core Community, committed to the growth and support of all small communities in the parish. The Core Community will be attentive to the development of each small community on an ongoing basis. The Core Community hopes to offer pastoral guidance, support, and affirmation for groups, especially through their leaders.
3. The leaders of communities will be offered formation in prayer, Scripture, knowledge of faith, moral formation, social teachings of the Church, service and justice, and the skills needed to foster small group sharing.
4. Members of small communities will be asked to assess their spiritual needs on a regular basis so that the Core Community can plan formation sessions. Therefore, as they become aware of questions and concerns, they should make note and bring these to the attention of their small Christian community leader. The small community leader is the primary means of communicating personal and pastoral needs of the group to the Core Community.
5. Talk with parish and/or diocesan/archdiocesan staff for additional ideas on this topic. Also, there is a workshop, "Pastoring Small Community Leaders," that can be downloaded from [www.parishlife.com](http://www.parishlife.com).