



SPIRIT OF CHRIST

2017

Small Church Community Resource List

FAITH SHARING SELECTIONS FOR SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITIES

The following books, sharing booklets and video or DVDs are available through Spirit of Christ Library or through the parish Small Church Community Office. The Resource List is categorized by general topic. Should you have questions about any resource please contact Barb Howard in the Small Church Community Office.

Please note several NEW selections added since the publication of the last Resource List. Look in the Alphabetical Listing at the back of the book under “N” for new titles.

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CATHOLIC CHURCH

101 Questions and Answers on the Da Vinci Code and Catholic Tradition

Nancy DeFlon, Paulist Press

“Far more than a mere *Da Vinci Code* debunker this book serves as a celebration of Catholic culture that uses *The DaVinci Code* as its springboard. It’s the ideal guide for readers who want to learn not only what’s wrong in *The Da Vinci Code* but also what’s right about the Catholic tradition.“

5 W’s (Who What Where When Why) of Our Catholic Faith and How We Live It, The Edited by Mary Carol Kendzia , Liguori Publications (10 Sessions) *With Separate Leaders Guide*.

The Catholic Faith is a multi-faceted jewel. Each session in this easy-to-use series brings people to a deeper level of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. The approach touches on critical themes and topics in a simple yet engaging manner and offers questions for personal reflection and group discussion.

5 W’s (Who What Where When Why) of Our Catholic Faith . . . Living in Hope, The Richard Boever , Liguori Publications (10 Sessions) *With Separate Leaders Guide*.

What is hope? It’s the belief that “the community of faith, by the grace of God, seems to be bigger than human weakness for those who have embraced the faith.” This book through reflections on Scripture and Church tradition, weaves our personal faith experiences today with the journey of the Catholic Church through the ages. Included are discussion questions and opening and closing prayers.

NEW

At the Table With Jesus: Do This in Remembrance of Me Fr. William Burton, OFM, Now You Know Media (DVD 12 Sessions with Reflection/Sharing Questions)

What does it mean to follow Jesus' request to "Do this in memory of me"? Why did Jesus ask his disciples to remember him by sharing a meal? In this series, you will explore these fascination questions that lie at the heart of our faith.

Biblical Walk Through the Mass, A DVD (5 Sessions) Edward Sri, Ascension Press

In this series, Dr. Edward Sri takes us on a unique tour of the Liturgy. Based on the revised translation of the Mass which became effective in Advent, 2011, the series explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience in the Liturgy and explains their profound significance.

Believing Catholic Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, St. Anthony Messenger Press

This book encourages Catholics to embrace the world in which they live and change it for the better. "My purpose is to clarify the Catholic mind to show how deeply different we are - or should be - from many of those around us." writes Pilarczyk.

NEW

Be Merciful: Reflections on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Bill Huebsch, Twenty-Third Publications (6 Sessions with Reflection/Sharing Questions)

In calling us to reflect on the works of mercy, Pope Francis stands in the very center of the Christian tradition. In this easy-to-use resource, small community members will find six complete sessions (read, reflect, pray, act) on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

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Catechism of the Catholic Church Familystyle

(4 Volumes) David M. Thomas and Mary Joyce Calnan, Thomas More Publications

This resource, written primarily for families, is a special gift to everyone as a pastoral resource and spiritual companion. This work brings faith to life and life to faith...a new classic in American Catholic spirituality. It helps us to easily understand the Catechism of the Catholic Church. **Volume I** “*We Believe*”; **Volume II** “*We Celebrate*”; **Volume III** “*We Love*”; **Volume IV** “*We Pray*”

Church According to the New Testament What the Wisdom and Witness of Early Christianity Teach Us Today

(12 Chapters, Daniel Harrington, S.J., Sheed and Ward)

Writing with sensitivity to the historical settings and literary conventions of the books of the New Testament, Harrington focuses on their theological content and what they teach us about being a community of believers today. Questions for reflection and discussion help readers apply the wisdom of the Church in light of the New Testament portrayals.

Church History 101: A Concise Overview Christopher Bellitto, Liguori Publications (4 chapters)

Church History 101 introduces the reader to the basics of Catholic Church history. The author divides the Church’s history into four distinct periods (early, medieval, Reformation and modern. Each chapter four major issues: The Big Picture, The Church’s Hierarchy, The Church in the Pews, and What Makes This Period Unique? Includes discussion questions, maps and timelines.

NEW

Deepening Faith: Expanding Our Connections Through the Signs of God’s Love 6 Session

Booklet, Fr. Frank DiSiano, Paulist Evangelization Ministries (With discussion questions, prayer and references for further reading.)

In this series, SCC members explore together how the sacraments connect them to God and each other.

NEW

Empowering Faith: Expand Your Knowledge of the Virtues 7 Session Booklet, Kathryn Owens,

Paulist Evangelization Ministries (With discussion questions, prayer and references for further reading.)

This series helps SCCs understand their lives as empowered by the Holy Spirit through the three theological virtues and four cardinal virtues. Discussion of virtues leads to conversation about moral life including the behaviors of the broader society

Faith Interrupted, A: Honest Conversation With Alienated Catholics

Alice Camille and Joel Schorn, Loyola Press

Who of us doesn't know an "alienated" Catholic among our friends or in our families? Perhaps we ourselves were at one time alienated or feel that we could easily become alienated in the future. If you're willing to do a little reading and to enter into some honest discussion in your small community, you will benefit from this clear, insightful and uplifting book. "An excellent guidebook that asks—and answers—the right questions."

Food from Heaven: The Eucharist in Scripture Jeanne Kun, The Word Among Us Press

(Introduction and 6 Sessions)

"*Food from Heaven* will help readers navigate through the Bible to understand and appreciate the foundation of eucharistic worship. Each of the six sessions includes the full topical Scripture text, a short commentary, and questions for reflection and discussion. "In the spotlight sections are especially helpful to Catholics, featuring historical and cultural details, explanations of Greek words and quotes from church fathers, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and contemporary Catholic writers."

Great Twentieth-Century Catholics, Gathered in His Name (6 Sessions) Margo Doten,

St Anthony Press **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER**

Great Twentieth-Century Catholics introduces group members to inspiring Catholics: Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Blessed Pope John XXIII, Blessed Mother Teresa, Henri Nouwen and American Catholic laity. All of these great Catholics were chosen "because their work was remarkable and their influence profound," and each reminds us that we are all disciples "journeying with Jesus and each other, toward a perfect union with God."

Invitation to Catholicism: Beliefs, Teachings, Practices (12 chapters) Alice Camille, ACTA

Publications

A lively presentation of the faith designed for use in RCIA, RENEW, faith-sharing and other parish study groups. Also makes a helpful individual refresher course on what it means to be Catholic in a life-giving way. Includes an overview of church teachings on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mary and the saints, the Bible, Mass, sacraments, prayer and the moral life. With Questions to consider at the end of each chapter, and an appendix of basic prayers.

NEW

Joy of the Gospel, The, Group Reading Guide by Pope Francis – Guide written by Bill Huebsch,

Twenty-Third Publications (6 Sessions with Reflection/Sharing Questions)

Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel is Pope Francis' remarkable plan for the church. In this plain-English study guide with paraphrased summaries of each article and prayerful discussion questions can help small community members see how Francis' words apply to our own lives. **CONTACT THE SCC OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES**

NEW

Joy of Love, The, Group Reading Guide by Pope Francis – Guide written by Bill Huebsch, Twenty-Third Publications (9 Sessions with Reflection/Sharing Questions)

Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of the Love is Pope Francis' in depth teaching on the centrality of love in marriage and family life but also in all Christian relationships. In this plain-English study guide with paraphrased summaries of each article and prayerful discussion questions can help small community members see how Francis' words apply to our own lives. **CONTACT THE SCC OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES**

NEW

Laudato Si' :On Care For Our Common Home, Group Reading Guide

by Pope Francis – Guide written by Bill Huebsch, Twenty-Third Publications (6 Sessions with Reflection/Sharing Questions)

Laudato Si', Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical on the environment reminds us that earth is our common home and that we must care for it. Although the document is 184 pages long, this reading guide makes it accessible as a small group reflection process, utilizing a summary of every article in Pope Francis' document. **CONTACT THE SCC OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES**

Liturgy 101: Sacraments and Sacramentals Daniel Van Slyke, Liguori Publications (8 Chapters)

This book provides a concise and easy-to-follow overview of the liturgy that will immerse you into the Church's teaching and practice of the seven sacraments. The author also addresses frequently asked pastoral, practical, and canonical questions concerning the celebration of the sacraments.

Mystery of Faith: An Introduction to Catholicism DVD (10 sessions with reflection questions) Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

In his familiar, conversational style, Father Himes invites us to consider ten basic truths of Catholicism. Beginning with discussions of Trinity, Grace, the Incarnation and Salvation, he explores the Church as the presence of Christ in the world, the Sacraments and the role of tradition in the Catholic Church. The series includes questions for reflection and discussion. This is a great material for SCCs that want to look more deeply into the richness of our Catholic tradition.

NEW

Our Catholic Life, A Reading and Study Guide Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church 7

Booklet Series, Bill Huebsch, Twenty-Third Publications Ministries (With Lectio-divina prayer, and discussion questions.)

This newly-written series will help SCC members explore and discuss the major topics in *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The series is divided into 7 booklets which are:

#1 **The Human Journey** (7 Sessions) The Catechism begins not with a discourse on God, but with a consideration of the human heart. In our hearts we find the longing that leads to faith, and we find that being with God is the only way to happiness.

- #2 **The Mystery of God** (6 Sessions) Out of love, God Has revealed the diving to us gradually in deeds and in words and most fully through Jesus Christ.
- #3 **Drawing Closer to Christ** (7 Sessions) The name Jesus means “God saves.” Here we consider what that means to us personally and communally.
- #4 **The Mystery of the Church** (7 Sessions) What Christ entrusted to the apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to all generations.
- #5 **Living the Sacraments** (7 Sessions) In this booklet, the seven sacrament their essential rites and spiritual effects are examined.
- #6 **Living the Commandments** (7 Sessions) A study of the commandments and their place in modern life.
- #7 **Praying Our Way Through Life** (7 Sessions) Prayer is the privileged moment of intimacy with God where we discuss our lives, the needs of the world, and the ways our hearts move within us.

Practicing Catholic Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, St. Anthony Messenger Press

This book explores the basic story of God's plan for humankind through creation, redemption and salvation. The chapters in the book are all foundational truths that hold all Catholic practice and belief together, including Faith, creation, sin, Incarnation, Resurrection, salvation, grace, Trinity, prayer and Church.

Sacraments, The, Gathered in His Name (6 Sessions) Margo Doten, St. Anthony Messenger Press **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER**

The Sacraments offers a way to deepen and enrich our understanding of the sacraments and the presence of God in our daily lives. Each session addresses a different sacrament—baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, sacraments of healing and sacraments of vocation—and how these sacraments affect our commitment to the Catholic faith.

NEW

Spirit of Faith, The: Making Faith Come Alive 7 Session Booklet, Fr. Frank DiSiano, Paulist Evangelization Ministries (With discussion questions, prayer and references for further reading.)

Focusing on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, this series explores how the Spirit is at work in the lives of small community members

Spirit of Vatican II, Gathered in His Name (6 Sessions) Margo Doten, St. Anthony Messenger Press **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER**

The Spirit of Vatican II provides a deeper understanding of the role of Vatican II in our church and our lives today. The six-session series examines Blessed Pope John XXIII’s vision of church and how that vision changed the church; how Vatican II affected our prayer life, especially during the Mass; the foundations of our faith, particularly Scriptural.

Thinking Catholic (14 brief chapters) Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Catholicism encourages its followers to embrace the world in which they live and change it for the better. Learning to "think Catholic" helps people apply the insights, presumptions and priorities that lie in the heart of the faithful believer to God and the world, life and living, suffering and sin, the individual and the family, and society at large.

Vision of Vatican II for Today (DVD 5-session series with reflection questions)

Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press.

This series on the Second Vatican Council is new and very thought-provoking. Fr. Himes does a masterful job of looking at the blessings and the challenges facing the Catholic Church in the 21st century through the lens of the ground-breaking insights of Vatican II. If you think Vatican II is "old news", think again!! "As Catholicism faces new challenges, the seeds of reform and hope are found right within our own tradition and the documents of Vatican II."

Where Is the Church Going? (3 sessions) VIDEO, Richard McBrien, Tabor Publishing

As we approach the third millennium of Christendom, many questions and problems face the Catholic Church. Changes in our society during the last 50 years have been more radical than anything experienced in the 1,940 years preceding. The time has come to begin imagining the future of the Catholic Church. This series helps us to begin that imagining.

Why Be Catholic? (4 Chapters with reflection questions), Richard Rohr and Joseph Martos, St.

Anthony Messenger Press

Why be Catholic? is a question Catholics never asked a generation ago. If you were born Catholic you simply accepted the faith, its traditions and belief. Today the Catholic Church is much different from the way it was a generation ago. It is not so easy to say what makes Roman Catholicism different from other forms of Christianity. The authors answer the question fairly and squarely, showing a deep appreciation about what is good in Catholicism and a penetrating honesty about the Church's shortcomings.

Why Do Catholics Do That? A Guide to the Teachings and Practices of the Catholic Church

(Four parts, 36 Brief Chapters) Kevin Johnson, Ballantine Press

In *Why Do Catholics Do That?* renowned scholar and religion columnist Kevin Johnson answers the most frequently asked questions on Catholic faith, worship, culture, and customs, including (among many others): How the Church Makes Laws; The Church's Family Albums; Other Good Books Besides the Bible; A Short Guide to the Meaning and Structure of the Mass; Monks, Nuns, and the Rules that guide them; Saints: How You Get To Be One; The Meaning of the Nativity Scene; Candles in Prayer and Liturgy; Unceasing Chant: Music in the Life of the Church. Although there are no sharing questions, the chapters are so well written that they will stimulate the learning and sharing of faith.

Why Stay Catholic? Unexpected Answers to a Life-Changing Question Michael Leach, Loyola Press

“Why stay Catholic? The answers will surprise and sustain you. Scandals in the Catholic Church won’t go away. The same uninspiring sermons keep coming. Lay people are left wondering where “the beef” in Catholicism has gone. In light of all this, it’s no wonder that some many Catholics are asking, why stay Catholic? In *Why Stay Catholic?*, national best-selling author Michael Leach offers surprising, inspiring and timely answers to this life-changing question, giving readers plenty of reasons to celebrate the Catholic faith here and now.” Small Church Community members will relish the wonderful reflection and discussion material in each chapter of this book about the meaning of the Catholic church!

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (Source Documents)

Church: Past, Present and Future 3-part VIDEO, Jose Marins, Teolide Trevisan and Carolee Chanona, Buena Vista

Insights From the Past: Discovering Our Biblical Roots
Gift For the Present: Being Church Where We Are
Legacy For the Future: Living Into The Reign of God

What are our Scriptural Roots? What are we doing to our church today? What does the future hold for us? Answers to these basic questions and a large dose of hope for all Christian are included in this extraordinary set of videos.

Creating Community (6 sessions) Barbara Howard & William V. D'Antonio, Buena Vista

At its best, community is a gift from God, a gift that needs to be cultivated and developed in order for its true value to permeate and enrich the church and the world. The sessions of this series explore the sociological phenomenon of the human need for community and the distinctive nature of Small Christian Community.

Making Connections, Gathered in His Name (6 sessions) Margo Doten, St. Anthony Messenger Press **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER**

Making Connections is specifically for faith communities just getting started. This meeting series provides the tools and exercises necessary to build valuable connections among small group members. This particular guide focuses on helping members get to know themselves and Jesus, as well as their church—all in an effort to “become Jesus.”

Ministries: Sharing God's Gifts (8 sessions) James Dunning, St. Mary's Press

James Dunning offers a vision of the Church in which all its members may truly share the talents which are uniquely theirs. Recognizing and respecting the accepted ministries of the Word, community-building, celebration, and service-healing, Dunning expands our understanding of these ministries and challenges us to see new opportunities for involvement in each of them.

Small Christian Communities: Imagine That! VIDEO (2 Sessions)

This video is designed to help Small Church Communities develop a strong *inner* life and a strong *outer* life. Filmed during the International Theological Consultation on Small Christian Communities at Notre Dame University, the video will help SCC members reflect on the breadth of the experience of SCCs in the world today.

Small Christian Communities: Imagining Future Church

(6 chapters) edited by Robert S. Pelton csc

As the church seeks to understand its life and mission in an increasingly secular context, the worldwide experiences of small Christian communities offer significant insights into the Church of the future. This book presents the findings of a theological consultation held at the University of Notre Dame in 1996 among 45 theologians, pastoral leaders and lay members of small communities from five continents.

FAITH AND LIFE

Addicted to Hurry: Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down 10 Chapters, Kirk Byron Jones, Judson Press

“Does life have to be fast to be fun and fulfilling? In *Addicted to Hurry*, Kirk Byron Jones debunks the ‘need for speed’ mentality that so many people have embraced. He goes beyond social and psychological analysis to include spiritual perspectives on the danger of letting hurry become a chronic condition.” Your small community may want to explore this small book as an antidote to hurried, harried lives. You may also want to read it on your own!

Be Not Afraid: Overcoming the Fear of Death (19 Brief Reflections) Johann Cristoph Arnold, Plough Publishing

This is a book everyone should read. The true stories invite the reader to reflect on the gift of life and faith while honestly facing the reality of death. This is an important topic for Small Church Community reflection. The book comes with insightful and thought-provoking reflection questions.

Beginnings: Human and World Issues (8 sessions) Mary C. McGuinness & Thomas A. Kleissler, Sheed & Ward

"Beginnings" considers a number of different issues in order to give small community members a quick overview and initial experience in dealing with a range of human and world concerns. In doing so it is hoped that participants will begin to appreciate better how faith pertains to and must be connected with every aspect of life. This understanding is essential to full Christian life and is also essential if faith-sharing communities are to approach their potential.

Beyond Black and White (6 sessions) Danny Duncan Collum, RENEW International

This series provides SCC members the opportunity to explore what the Catholic faith has to say about the racial issues facing our society, offering them the opportunity to reach out and forge common bonds with Christians of other races.

Caring for God's Creation (8 sessions) Archdiocese of Newark, NJ

Pope John Paul II wrote: "There is an order in the universe which must be respected, and ...the human person, endowed with the capability of choosing freely, has a grave responsibility to preserve this order for the well-being of future generations. *Climate Change and Catholic Social Teaching*. This booklet guides small communities in a prayerful environment as they explore

Catholics Going Green (6 Sessions) Walter E. Grazer, Ave Maria Press

"Every believer should read this superb book. It shows why pollution is a social-justice problem and why its heaviest burdens are borne by the poor and the powerless. Designed for use either by small groups or by individuals, each chapter is filled with useful environmental discussions, relevant scripture readings, prayers, and stories of ordinary people who are making a difference. Especially important are its suggestions of specific ways in which people can take action to protect people and the planet."

Christian and Islamic Theology (21 Sessions) Gabriel Said Reynolds, Ph.D. Now You Know Media, DVD with study guide and questions

Connecting Faith and Life (7 sessions) Gerald Foley & Timothy Schmaltz, Sheed and Ward

Since Vatican II, we have radically changed the way we look at God's presence in our world. We have lost once clear distinctions between the sacred and the secular. No longer is all ministry embodied in the priest and holy women who serve the church. Now we popularly say that "the people are the church." What does that mean in our lives as we search for the holiness of ordinary life? (OUT OF PUBLICATION)

Discipleship of Non-Violence (7 sessions) Betsy Clark, SSJ, Sheed and Ward

A look at a way of following Jesus that works to transform violence both within oneself as well as within society. This series helps us to reflect together on the meaning of violence and nonviolence in our lives; on the part nonviolence played in the life of Jesus; and, how we as disciples of Jesus are challenged to follow his way. This series was reissued in late 2001 with a session on the September 11th attacks.

Embracing Life (6 sessions) Michael T. Mannion, Ligouri Publications

This series calls Small Church Community members to reflect prayerfully and to share our faith response to a number of life issues in order to deepen our convictions that each person and all creation are sacred. Five issues are explored: life in the womb and the mother's life; the life of the ill and suffering; the life of those who are abused or victims of domestic violence; capital punishment and the life of those who have committed violent crimes; and, the life of the natural world.

eucharist with a small “e” (3 parts, 18 brief chapters) Miriam Therese Winter, Orbis Books

“Eucharist with a small “e” is all about story – the story God as it unfolds in the stories of Jesus, in our own stories, and in the stories of our complicated world. . . . Through eucharist with a small “e,” we learn to see story as sacrament and to celebrate the liturgy of life.” This little book is ideal for small communities who want to explore and celebrate God in the intersection of faith and the events of every day life, just as did the early Christian community at Jerusalem.

Faith: Confidence and Doubt in Daily Life (6 sessions) Martin Marty, Augsburg Fortress

This series is about confidence and doubt in daily life, about making our way through the seasons of life. Each day of life, and all of life taken together, looks like a maze, a labyrinth. That is, we enter it at a certain door called birth and exit it at one named death--or, in faith, one that could be named "Access to Eternal Life." Between the two, anything can happen. Since anything can happen we should prepare for it, for anything certainly will happen.

NEW

Faith in Action: Transforming the World (6 Sessions) Genevieve and Michael Jordan Laskey, Paulist Evangelization Ministries (With discussion questions, prayer and references for further reading.)

Through sharing, conversation and prayer, small community members will come to a deeper appreciation of the social teachings of the Church and how they can transform our lives and our world

From Violence to Wholeness (10 sessions) Paulist Press

This series explores nonviolence as a creative, powerful and effective process for addressing and resolving the conflicts in our lives and in the life of the world. Drawing on the vision of Jesus, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Shelley Douglas and many others, this series offers your small community resources to deepen the journey from violence to wholeness.

God's One Family: Insights of Faith Into Our Changing World and Your Role In It

"Nobody can say anymore, 'Let others be concerned with the rest of the world.' The world is each one of us...Each of us must see himself or herself as a member of this great family, the world community" (Pope John Paul II) Global justice, cooperation, or ever-escalating conflict: which? As followers of Christ what is our call in the new global community? What can and should we do about it? This is the topic of this series.

Living the Ten Commandments As a Catholic Today (10 chapters) Fr. Matthew Kessler, Liguori

In a world that depends on the accuracy of atomic clocks, the Ten Commandments might seem as effective as a sundial. However, while our culture seems even more lonely despite access to phones, email, and instant messaging, the Ten Commandments do connect men and women to God, the giver of life and all that is good. The wisdom of the Ten Commandments is effective when the men and women who live this wisdom engage their own questions about the meaning of life. . . These commandments make possible the real and lasting connections with one another, even when we do not know each other personally. They make community possible

Mother Theresa's Prescription (22 chapters with faith sharing questions) Paul A. Wright, MD, Ave Maria Press

“Cardiologist Paul Wright had it all - wealth, prestige, a fulfilling career, a loving family. But despite his success, he felt empty, depressed, and adrift. Seeking direction, Wright sought out Mother Teresa, the person he considered the expert on living the Christian life. Wright's life was forever changed when Mother Teresa shared her message—that his purpose in life, indeed the purpose of each of us, is to serve others with compassion. Join Wright as he shares what he learned from Mother Teresa and how he found inner peace and happiness when he began living a life based in service and compassion.”

Power of Forgiveness, The

(4 part DVD with discussion questions) features Everett J. Worthington, Ph.D, Paraclete Video Productions

C.S. Lewis said, “Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive.” We all have something to forgive in our lives. It is hoped that these lessons will take forgiveness from being simply a nice concept and turn it into a way of life that reflects how distinct Christians are to be from the world in which we live.

Samaritan Project, The (9 sessions) Rob Fringer and Jeff Lane, The House Studio.

The Samaritan Project takes the familiar parable of an injured traveler and invites us to engage the story in a way that will change how we view ourselves and the people around us. Learn the importance of the Samaritan story, discover the revealing nature of questions, and explore the distance we create between ourselves and those God has called us to love.

Time of Your Life, (6 sessions), Mary C. McGuinness, Sheed and Ward

The Time of Your Life encourages small community members to evaluate their main activity in view of the gospel and the church's tradition of promoting human dignity and the common good. The "Observe, Judge, Act" approach is employed in the series.

Where Do You Stand? Eight Moral Issues Confronting Today's Christians (8 sessions)

Gregory Higgins, Paulist Press

People argue about moral issues, church leaders and politicians issue proclamations about them, but does anyone know for sure what's right and wrong when you really come down to it? This book offers a way of reflecting on eight "life issues," ranging from sex to capital punishment. It doesn't give answers. It does ask questions.

Why Jesus Makes Me Nervous: Ten Alarming Words of Faith (10 chapters with small group discussion questions) Joy Jordan-Lake, Paraclete Press

“Nice as it would be to frame Jesus as fun-loving, or a mercy-dispensing friend, the stories we have about him are a lot more disturbing than that. We hear about celebrations that began as a wake, and about people who didn’t use their talents well being bounced clear out of the club. Jesus clearly thought that following the way of truth involved a lot more than simply avoiding things like murder, stealing, committing adultery, or telling lies. When Jesus truly makes you nervous, he is worth living and dying for, and becomes the greatest source of meaning and purpose in life imaginable.”

FAMILY

Blessed and Broken: The Holiness of Marriage and Family Life (8 Sessions) Gerald Foley, Sheed and Ward

"Family life is messy. To talk about family is to talk about messy issues like conflict, hurt, mistrust, and the need for reconciliation, as well as hectic schedules, diverse interests, and multigenerational worries...Studies of which couples are succeeding in marriage show only two measurable factors, the faith life of the couple and their support system. As the extended family diminishes, need for outside support grows."

Family: Stages of Parenting (7 sessions) Serendipity

Making God Visible: Parenting Young Children Kathleen O’Connell Chesto, Liguori

Throughout the course of a child’s lifetime, countless adults will guide and influence his or her life choices. This series was written to bring together those parents and caretakers who want to share values with children that often run counter to those promoted in our world.

More Than Meets the Eye: Finding God in the Creases and Folds of Family Life (Four Chapters, 23 Reflections) Mary Jo Pedersen, Thomas Greisen, Ronald Wasikowski, St. Mary’s Press

“This book will awaken a family’s awareness of God in all kinds of places and in common family experiences...An outline version of the reflection process used in this book is included in an appendix to assist small communities who want to look more deeply into their particular stories and find their loving and merciful God present in them.” Each reflection includes faith-sharing questions.

Nurturing Our Commitment
(6 sessions) Maureen S. Hagan, RENEW International

There are so many voices speaking out on love and marriage in this twenty-first century. As you experience this series, you will tune in to the rich voice of the Church as well as listen to yourself and one another.

Strengthening Family Life (6 sessions) Catherine Martin, Sheed and Ward

The questions, "What can we do to shore up family life?" and "What can we do to help children in families?" form recurrent themes in the conversations of concerned citizens of the post-modern world. The reflections in this series are designed to help small community members come to a deeper appreciation of family life, to explore and discover the many faces of family in our society today, and to foster good family values.

HOW TO DO/WHAT IS? SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITY

Building Christian Communities: Strategy for Renewing the Church (7 chapters)

Stephen Clark, Ave Maria Press

The author proposes a comprehensive strategy for recentering Christ in the Church and building up Christ's body in the world by means of Christian communities. The formation of these communities is the central theme of this book.

Church In A New Milieu, VIDEO PRESENTATION, Institute for Pastoral and Social Ministry,
Notre Dame University

Catholic parish life in the United States is undergoing a transformation. This video presents a new model of Church, the small church community, in which participants develop a stronger attachment to the parish and the community. The video was made as a result of the Notre Dame Study on Catholic Parish Life which surveyed over 18,500 parishes.

Community of Faith: Crafting Christian Communities Today, Evelyn & James Whitehead, Twenty-Third Publications

This book offers a practical analysis of what makes community groups work, along with a theological look at key elements in a spirituality of Christian community. Each chapter ends with an exercise for personal reflection or group discussion.

Creating Communities of Good News: A Handbook For Small Group Facilitators,
(10 chapters) Mary LaCourse Mauren, Sheed and Ward

This book offers hundreds of creative ideas for facilitating openings, prayer, getting acquainted, meaningful breaks, evaluation processes, closures. It equips the reader with the vision and the practical tools for building dynamic communities of faith and hope.

Creating Small Christian Communities: Minimum Structure, Maximum Life

(3 chapters) Barbara Darling, Jack Ventura, Good Ground Press

“Creating Small Christian Communities” is the work of people with plenty of experience, vast connections among national and international SCC leaders, and the practical wisdom that comes from such a network.

Creating Small Faith Communities: A Plan for Restructuring the Parish and Renewing Catholic Life

Arthur Baranowski, St. Anthony Messenger Press

This is the story of a pastor's vision of church and a parish's journey to renewal by being restructured into small church communities. This story can become your own. The book is an effort to share the vision as well as the nuts and bolts of how the restructuring took place.

Dangerous Memories, Bernard Lee and Michael Cowan, Sheed and Ward

The small church community movement is here to stay! Lee and Cowan, like more and more Christians in the United States are convinced that the small community movement--so much a part of our American story--is not a fad but a large-scale evolution in the life of the church of our age. This book about these small, intentional faith communities is a must for anyone involved in the organization and living out of the small community movement.

Getting a Grip on Your Group: A Guide for Discerning Priorities in Your Small Christian Community (6 sessions) Barb Darling, Good Ground Press

“This book aims to help communities work through and recognize intentions that those who participate in the group may take for granted. In this process group members will recognize, evaluate, and change or affirm how the group works. Each chapter raises questions that invite group members to reflect on their actions and intentions and, in the end, to use these reflections to covenant themselves to each other and God.”

Guidebook For Problem Solving in Group Settings (7 chapters) J. Gordon Meyers,

John W. Lawyer, Sheed and Ward

In the context of this booklet, problem solving is a process that enables a group to find a solution to a problem or difficulty. The problem can belong to the group as a whole or to any particular member of the group. Not all problems call for the use of problem-solving skills. The skills used to help a group or person in a group, will depend on correctly identifying the type of problem involved.

Signs of Hope James O'Halloran, Orbis Books

A resource book that all small group leaders should read. It provides some guidelines to move groups in the right general direction. A useful resource for theological reflection and pastoral practice. This book gives the original nature of small Christian Communities from the New Testament communities to modern times. Included in this work is the origin and nature of SCCs; SCC and the kingdom of God as well as a section on kingdom justice. The experience of SCC in Dublin, Ecuador, Sierra Leone, etc. give a broader world view.

Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope, Thomas Kleissler, Margo A. LeBert, Mary C. McGuinness, Paulist Press

This book is essentially a pastoral work intending to offer enough concrete "how-to's" to facilitate healthy small community development. It is offered for all who are interested in exploring the possibilities of small communities within parish life.

Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment Joseph G. Healey and Jeanne Hinton, editors, Orbis

What can churches do to renew themselves from within? This inspiring book shows what is happening now across six continents, giving lay people as well as pastors of every denomination encouragement and insight from their counterparts around the world.

Small Christian Community, Basics in A Nutshell DVD Helen Raycraft, Joan Bernier, Jeanne Leezer and Art Baranowski, Buena Vista

Designed as a primer for Small Christian Communities everywhere, this DVD serves as an integral communication tool for their formation as well as providing an enhancement to their ongoing development and support. These presenters offer personal insights from their diverse backgrounds and many years of experience in Small Christian Communities.

INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH SHARING MATERIALS

Family Faith Communities (10 Ready-to-Use Gatherings) Amy Sluss, Good Ground Press

These 10 gatherings aim to offer a family-based Small Church Community experience that will strengthen the family and that will invite families to form relationships with other families. In learning about community, God, Jesus Christ, and the Catholic faith, the participants and the process will bless each person on his or her faith journey.

Growing Together, Six Intergenerational Celebrations, Volume I, Fall and Winter

Kathy Finley, Sylvia DeVillers, Rita Mailander, Kathy Coffey, Living the Good News

Through celebrations, we can experience scripture and traditions in a fresh way that can give beauty and meaning to our daily lives. There are suggestions for six sessions in this volume of *Growing Together*. The topics are *Building a Parish Family*, *All Saints*, *Thanksgiving*, *Advent*, *Christmas* and *Ephiphany*. In each chapter you will find more than enough activities for a one hour session.

Growing Together, Six Intergenerational Celebrations, Volume II, Spring and Summer

Kathy Finley, Sylvia DeVillers, Sara Fontana, Living the Good News

There are suggestions for six sessions in this volume of *Growing Together*. The topics are *Mardi Gras Carnival, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Summer Celebration of God's Goodness, Assumption*. In each chapter you will find more than enough activities for a one hour session.

In Touch With the Word CYCLE A Lisa Marie Calderone-Stewart, St. Mary's Press

This is a great book for intergenerational Small Church Communities who wish to share their faith. Each session, based on the Sunday lectionary readings, contains a brief explanation of the readings, a theme, a suggested focusing object, age appropriate questions for adults, teenagers and children, and a closing prayer.

In Touch With the Word CYCLE B Lisa Marie Calderone-Stewart, St. Mary's Press

See description above.

In Touch With the Word CYCLE C Lisa Marie Calderone-Stewart, St. Mary's Press

See description above.

In Touch With the Word: Lectionary-Based Reflections for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter for Families St. Mary's Press, Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

"This is a great book for family faith sharing having special reflections on each set of readings for adults, teenagers and children. A handy focusing object is suggested to focus attention concretely on the prayer themes and to facilitate the reflections.

Weaving Faith Family, Reflections and Suggestions for Your Busy Family! Eileen Marx, Ave Maria Press

Each of the weekly chapters includes: A story drawn from the authors family experience and the spiritual insights she derives from it; Scripture passages that relate to the theme; practical suggestions to enrich and deepen family spirituality; books you can read with your children; books and resources for parents; conversation starters-a practical way to help kids talk about faith and prayer suggestions.

MARIAN TOPICS

At Prayer With Mary John Phalen, CSC and James Posluszny, CSC, (6 sessions) RENEW International.

Through Scripture stories we come closest to understanding the true person of Mary. By focusing on a down-to-earth image of Mary – her humanness, her poverty, and her struggles—this booklet presents a model of Christian living that can support and guide us on our journey.

Chatting with Mother Mary JoAnne Parnell Mongeon, Twenty-Third Publications.

These intimate conversations with Mary, written as if the author were sitting down comfortably with her, connect the major events of Jesus' and Mary's lives with the experiences of families today. The meditations and stories will help readers develop a closer relationship with Mary and her Son.

Mary 101: Tradition and Influence Sally Mews, Liguori (4 mid-length chapters with reflection questions) Mary Ann Zimmer, ND, PhD Liguori Publications

"Meet Jesus' mother, Mary, in this readable overview and introduction. You'll gain insights into the history and traditions of the Virgin in relation to the concerns of the 21st century Christians around the world. Mary is introduced via Scripture, followed by an exploration of Church teaching, prayers, and devotions. Learn about Mary's global appearances (apparitions) and the way she has been portrayed in great works of art."

Mary, Handmaiden of the Lord (6 sessions) Joan Jungerman, Paulist Press

Mary is the ideal model of what it means to be Christian. Her life is given over in faithfulness to the Father's will. Based on Vatican II's document on the Church as well as Scripture, this book enables members of small groups to explore relationship with Mary.

Your Sorrow is My Sorrow (7 Chapters) , Joyce Rupp, Crossroads Publishing

"The painful pieces of Mary's life help us to get through our own rough-edged moments. We see how she too questioned what was confusing and unclear, how she needed others to be with her in her pain, how she reflected on her experiences in order to find meaning. We also see how her faith sustained her, and how her son gave her the strength to endure. We discover that we are not alone in what is most difficult for us.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Bring Forth Justice (11 sessions) Daniel Pilarczyk, Paulist Press

In eleven brief chapters (with reflection questions and suggested readings) this series considers the foundational issues that must be examined in any search for justice. The author balances rights and responsibilities to uncover our ultimate obligations to each other. Human justice becomes an opportunity to assist God in making the world everything it was meant to be.

Called to Live Justly (12 sessions) Anne Marie Reardon, Sheed and Ward

Use of this booklet enables small communities to share faith, enrich their understanding of how to work with Christ in ministering to their brothers and sisters, and live their commitment to social justice in today's world. Calling attention to the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives, this booklet will bring your small community to a greater appreciation of how the Spirit empowers us to work for the reign of God.

Catholic Social Teaching: Owning Our Tradition (6 sessions) Kathleen Smith, Judith Robb and Mary daSilva Abinante, Ministry Center for Catholic Community

"What rights are human rights? Who is responsible? What is progress?" These are some of the questions dealt with in this series. Sharing questions are included for personal reflection and connection to daily life.

Choose Life: Consistent Life Ethic and Political Responsibility (6 sessions) Kate Chambers and Patricia Natali, Sheed and Ward

A reflection on critical contemporary issues--e.g., racism, nuclear warfare, abortion, capital punishment--as well as political strategies in light of Catholic tradition and teaching.

God's One Earth: Insights of Faith Into Our Environmental Crises and Our Role In It (6 sessions) John C. Schwarz, Sheed and Ward

Today Christians are being reminded to return to their roots where we are reacquainted with the Biblical message that the natural world we have so abused belongs to Another. "The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24) The earth is ours also, and the distress thereof. Earth's distress is our distress. This series helps us to focus on what we can do to help earth and ourselves!

Hunger In God's World

Art Simon, Sheed and Ward

Nobody can explain the problem of hunger and what we can do about it better than Art Simon founder of Bread for the World. This booklet offers concrete steps to address the contradiction between God's intention for the world and widespread hunger.

Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action (Seven Chapters) Thomas Massaro, S.J., Sheed and Ward

Based on the broad tradition of Catholic social teaching, this book is a fresh and thoughtful look at contemporary issues and our responses to them. Rooted in Scripture, Tradition, and living examples of holiness, this is a relevant and timely book that will inform and inspire.

Sharing The Tradition: Shaping The Future

(6 sessions) United States Catholic Conference

This small group booklet has been prepared to enable adults to enter into and grow in awareness of the social justice tradition of the Catholic Church. Since the beginning of the tradition, God's call to justice has been clear. The work of social justice is not the work of a few "experts"; it should affect all of our lives. The group can explore how these basic social justice teachings affect our individual lives.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Who Are You Really: A Seeker's Guide to Faith Peter J. Cullinane
Twenty-Third Publications

The deepest question in every human heart is: does my life ultimately matter? In this book readers will discover what it means to be fully human. These pages cover a range of topics: our history as human beings, coming to see God's gifts, our relationship with God, and much more. These topics are considered from a scientific, cosmic, as well as a theological perspective, presenting holistic view of our lives both as individuals and as members of a community. Becoming the people we are called to be is a journey into reality.

Women are From Venus, Men Are From Mars John Gray **VIDEO** (12 sessions)

Based on the popular book by the same title, this video series helps men and women understand gender-based differences in communication and interpersonal relationships. The series is available in the **General Distribution of the Resource Room**.

PRAYER

Designing Ritual: Celebrating the Sacred in the Ordinary

(Six sessions) Buena Vista, Fr. James Telthorst, Richard White, Felicia Wolf, O.S.F.

This series helps SCCS understand the human desire for ritual as well as helps us feel comfortable in designing ritual and in praying together. The authors provide a simple method for designing rituals to fit your particular small community.

Pray As You Are: A Continuing Experience for Small Church Communities

(11 sessions with CD) National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities

“Pray always? A pipe dream or a call? Prayer is as natural and as essential to life as breathing in fresh air. So, pray always? Yes. As we need to breathe always in order to live, we need to pray always in order to live life to the fullest. Prayer is a constant challenge to our journey of faith. It's presence nourishes, challenges and connects people of faith to God and to one another.

Prayer Made Simple and Joyful, VIDEO SERIES (3 sessions), Fr. John Catoir,

Twenty-Third Publications

If you find it difficult to pray at times or feel that joy is absent from your prayer, this three part video series is for you. Each video is 25 minutes long and addresses such issues as loneliness, worrying, guilt, self-acceptance and the simple problem of falling asleep while trying to pray.

Prayer Services for Parish Meetings, Debra Hintz, Twenty-Third Publications

If you are sometimes in a quandary about a prayer service to begin your small community's gathering, take a look at this book. It includes 40 "themed" prayer services that are sure to provide a prayerful beginning for your next gathering.

Rosary for a Third-Millennium Church, The (6 chapters) Alice Camille, ACTA Publications

For quite some time, the rosary has been viewed as a staid and traditional prayer that is the exclusive domain of traditional Catholics . . . it may seem odd to suggest that it might become a tool for a new revolution or that we might discover the practice of praying the rosary to be radically countercultural. But . . . the rosary has within itself the potential to change hearts and—in the very act of doing so—to change the world.

Sharing Prayer: Simple Formats for Small Groups Mary Sue Taylor, St. Anthony Messenger Press

This creative book includes original prayer sessions focused around biblical themes, each accompanied by music, silence and spontaneous prayer. Five basic formats for prayer provide structure for each session.

SCRIPTURE

General

Assessment: Personal Audit (7 sessions)

This series gives SCC members a chance to take a personal inventory in a supportive group. "Who am I?" is not simply a question asked by adolescents searching for their identity. It is a question we all ask ourselves throughout our lives.

Core Values: Setting My Moral Compass (7 sessions)

Today many "experts" offer "road maps" to happiness. True happiness and contentment can be elusive. We may be happy when we are with family or friends, or shopping, achieving a goal, receiving an award, or getting our own way. But afterwards we return to discontentment and unhappiness. The reason--we seek happiness not joy. Happiness is temporal, joy is eternal. Happiness is based on earthly circumstances; joy is based on spiritual realities. Happiness is dependent on external events; joy is an inner reality.

Dawn of the Messiah: The Coming of Christ in Scripture (10 chapters) Edward Sri

Servant Books

“Sri provides three helps to enrich one’s spiritual life and better understand the well-known episodes of Christ’s Nativity and Infancy stories. He connects Old Testament texts and vocabulary; helps modern readers relate parallel experience to the Gospel story and the book offers study questions.

Gifts and Calling: Discovering God's Will

(7 sessions)

Our gifts and calling are central elements of our uniqueness as people. Our gifts are specific, Spirit-given abilities which enable us to contribute to the wider good of the community and world. Our calling is the task or area of service where God directs us to use those gifts.

NEW

Holy Land, The: A Pilgrimage through the Footsteps of Jesus DVD Series (12 Sessions with Discussion Questions) Fr. Raymond Brown, Now You Know Media

After learning about the geographical context of the Holy Land and exploring its most distinctive features—the seas, mountains and deserts—you will journey through each of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. Rev. Donald Senior, renowned New Testament scholar and pilgrimage leader, will guide you down the Jordan River, across the Sea of Galilee, and up to the Mount of Olives. As you take this journey, you will gain deeper insight into the power and beauty of the Gospel message.

Invitation to the New Testament: A Catholic Approach to the Christian Scripture (8 chapters)
Alice Camille, Acta Publications

For those of you who have gained insight from Alice Camille's thought-provoking reflections in your lectionary-based book *God's Word is Alive!* she has written a new book! In it she contrasts two seemingly similar outlooks on what it takes to be a good Christian: "being good" and "following Jesus." Being good, she points out, is leading a life "all about us;" whereas following Jesus involves looking in his direction and not back at ourselves. Her invitation to the New Testament examines what compelled the early Church to form the documents of the New Testament so that we might follow Jesus as the disciples once did. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions.

Invitation to the Old Testament: A Catholic Approach to the Hebrew Scripture (8 chapters)
Alice Camille, ACTA Publications

This series is designed for people who wish to strengthen personal spirituality and understanding of the Old Testament. In typical Alice Camille style, it is informative, insightful and engaging. You will encounter biblical characters that we never hear about in the Sunday readings – including many women! Each chapter ends with good questions and a prayer activity.

Jesus: Up Close and Personal (7 sessions) Serendipity

Jesus Christ has had a profound influence on the world—more so than any other person. His story is a major theme of Western history. In fact the events of history are measured by whether they happened before (BC) or after (AD) his birth. Despite Jesus' great influence, there is still a sense of mystery surrounding him. Who was Jesus? What was he like? This series attempts to explore the many-faceted personality of Jesus.

Listening to God's Word Alice Camille, 5 brief chapters, Orbis Books, 2009. Designed for group or personal reflection and sharing.

In Alice's words "The generosity of Bible writers impels my own desire to share the Scriptures with others. But it also makes the task of biblical commentary exceeding hard, because the best book about the Bible has already been written. It's called the Bible. And nothing a commentator writes will be better for the God-seeker to read than that . . . Yet I still feel the 'burning in my bones' about writing books like this one."

Living Scripture: Connecting to the Great Story (6 sessions) Rick Connor, Nora Petersen, Richard Rohr, O.F.M. Buena Vista

A small group of women in a tiny town in Mexico read the gospels for two years before moving out into the community with the good news. One of the women later said, "We have read the gospels, and you know what? They are about us." That handful of women changed the face of their town through their care for one another and works to improve living conditions for the community. This series weaves scripture into the small community experience with perceptive examples and engaging processes.

NEW

Meet the Real Mary Magdalene DVD Series (6 Sessions with Discussion Questions) Fr. Raymond Collins, Now You Know Media

What was Mary Magdalene really like? Other than the Virgin Mary, no woman has so captivated biblical scholars as Mary from Magdala. Under the guidance of Fr. Raymond Collins, small communities will explore Mary Magdalene in the Gospels, Gnosticism, and popular culture. As you do so, you will gain a powerful portrait of this Galilean follower of Jesus.

Miracles: Signs and Wonders (13 sessions) Serendipity

Miracles revealed God's presence and power, only to those who saw with the eyes of faith. Jesus' miracles were interpreted in widely different ways. Although many people saw them as evidence of God's presence, others viewed them as acts of Satan intended to deceive people. As such, they do not prove Jesus' divine authority, but are pointers to it to those whose hearts and minds are open to him.

Old Testament, The, Gathered in His Name (6 Sessions) Margo Doten, St. Anthony Messenger Press
CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER

The Old Testament explores the books of the Old Testament: the torah, historical books, Psalms and Proverbs, as well as the messianic prophecies. This is not an in-depth study of these books but rather a general introduction to the various parts of the Bible that so influenced our Christian beginnings. The books of the Old Testament are "timeless because they speak to an unchanging and always-new God and to the strengths and dreams, sins and flaws of human nature then and now."

Parables: Virtual Reality (13 sessions) Serendipity

Jesus was a master storyteller. Whether he was addressing a large crowd on a hillside, sharing a private meal with his disciples, or answering one of the Pharisees' trick questions, Jesus would often use stories to make his point. But there was something unique about the stories he told. Though simple in form, these stories carried a deeper message that slowly penetrated the minds of his listeners until the truth of it exploded within them. Some people were enlightened and compelled to glorify God. Others were enraged when they realized what Jesus was really saying about them and about himself.

Quick Journey Through the Bible, A DVD (8 Sessions) Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer (Great Adventure Bible Study) Ascension Press

Now available for small communities. . . the “quick” bible timeline. Workbooks also available to use in conjunction with the DVDs.

Reading the New Testament (Second Edition) Pheme Perkins, Paulist Press

The roots of the Christian heritage lie in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and in the believing community begun by his first followers. Reading the New Testament provides a unique guide for exploring the writings that put us in contact with our spiritual heritage. Beginning with what the New Testament is and the political and cultural milieu out of which it sprang, the author guides readers through each book of the New Testament, examining how the books came into being and what they tell us about God's saving action among the people.

Relationships: Learning To Love (7 sessions) Serendipity

Relationships are not automatically great. Successful relationships with God and with others take work in order to be healthy and strong. They do not just happen. At the center of successful relationships is love and respect. Healthy relationships are marked by equality--equal giving and receiving--or else you will find yourself in a co-dependent relationship. Healthy relationships are balanced ones and they add to our lives. Unhealthy relationships throw our lives off balance.

Scripture 101:An Intro to Reading the Bible William Parker, C.S.s.R., Liguori Publications (3 Parts, 17 Chapters)

The book introduces key elements to understanding the Bible. The chapters can be read in any order or in the sequence in which they appear. Included are resources for reflection and discussion questions.

Serendipity New Testament for Groups Lyman Coleman, Paulist Press

This one-of-a-kind Bible study program for groups contains the complete text of the New International Version New Testament and commentary by popular author and lecturer, Lyman Coleman. Coleman supplies questions and reflections for each NT verse for groups to learn from, reflect on, and pray over. The program requires no expertise since Coleman steers clear of exegetical problems and relies on the Word to Change hearts and minds.

Stressed Out: Keeping Your Cool (7 sessions) Serendipity

Stress is one of the central facts of modern life. With all the challenges we face in a world like ours, there is probably no way to avoid it. It has been said that the only stress-free people are dead, and that may well be the case! What we need to do, then, is not to seek to avoid stress, but to learn how to manage it in a way that keeps us healthy and happy.

Wholeness: Time For A Checkup

(7 sessions) Serendipity

This series attempts to integrate the "holistic health" concepts with the biblical concept of "wholeness." The justification for this connection is the word "Shalom," translated "peace" in the New Testament and offered as a free gift to the disciples in John 14:27. "Peace is what I leave with you. It is my own peace that I give you." Shalom is the Hebrew word that means inner peace, tranquility, harmony, health and well-being. Shalom is the code-breaking secret that links the holistic health movement with the divine purpose and plan of God.

Lectionary-Based Scripture Materials

The following options are faith-sharing materials which are based on the Sunday readings. Most are geared to a particular liturgical year (Cycle A, B, or C) but some are usable throughout all three cycles. Their usability is indicated after the title with notation of the appropriate cycle **A**, **B** or **C**, or **ALL**.

Faith Sharing for Small Church Communities: Questions and Commentaries on the Sunday

Readings (**ALL**) Edited by Art Baranowski, and the National Alliance for Parishes Restructuring Into Communities, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Seventy-five hundred people wrote this book! The life focus statements based on the Sunday readings of the lectionary came from small church communities in Catholic parishes from North America, South America, Asia, Europe, Australia and Africa. In these small communities people help each other connect everyday life with the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church. For each Sunday and major feast, a Scripture Focus provides a brief commentary on the lectionary readings; Life Focus gives at least one set of questions to spark faith sharing. Material is provided for all three cycles of the lectionary.

God's Word Is Alive! (**ALL**) Alice C. Camille, Twenty-Third Publications

"Prophecies come in two kinds: the ones you can take standing up, and the ones you can only take sitting down." The latter can apply to popular author Alice Camille's fresh and dynamic approach to the Sunday Scriptures. The figures in Scripture speak plainly and directly through these pages, and the reader is left breathless. You'll find yourself wondering, "Why haven't I seen it that way before?"

Quest: A Reflection Booklet for Small Christian Communities

(ALL) The Pastoral Department of Small Christian Communities, Hartford, Connecticut.

This booklet is written specifically for small church communities. Arranged in sixteen weekly sessions. **Contact the Parish Small Church Community Office to order.**

Sunday by Sunday: Lectionary-Based Reflection For Adults

(ALL) Sisters of Carondolet, St. Paul, MN

Ongoing explanation, reflection questions and prayer based on the Sunday readings throughout the year. **Contact the Parish Small Church Community Office to order.**

Word of The Lord, The Reflections on The Sunday Readings (B) Philip J. McBrien, Twenty-Third Publications

This series summarizes each of the three readings from the perspective of a contemporary Christian struggling to find meaning and direction in God's world. In addition to commentary, the series offers a weekly theme, and questions for reflection and discussion.

Seasonal Scripture Material

ADVENT

Advent Awakenings: Take the Time (The Gospel According to Mark- Cycle B)

RENEW International: 4 Sessions with Seasonal Prayer Appendix

This series encourages small group participants to prepare for Jesus' coming by setting aside everyday busyness and become more deeply aware of God's call.

Advent Christmas Journey: Part 1 - Hope in the Darkness

DVD Michael Himes, S.J., St. Anthony Messenger Press

We are creatures of time, and God is timeless. We look for the timeless one, God, to speak to us. And that is why we are constantly restless. Nothing on this earth ultimately satisfies us. We wait, and hope, for God. Advent is only one month of the year, but as Christians we are always in Advent.

Advent Christmas Journey: Part 2 – The Second Coming is Now

DVD Michael Himes, S.J., St. Anthony Messenger Press

Fr. Himes tells us that the coming of the Kingdom of God is not predictable but takes us by surprise. The Kingdom is constantly, relentlessly coming upon us in ordinary ways. In an inspirational presentation that is true to the Scriptures, Himes show us that the Kingdom of God is among us now, reconciling all people with the living God.

Advent Christmas Journey: Part 3 – Threatened by Grace

DVD Michael Himes, S.J., St. Anthony Messenger Press

Fr. Himes explores what the Last Judgment might mean. He does this by looking at what the “world” means in the Scriptures. Sometimes the world is seen as “good” but in other passages it is seen as the enemy of God. Himes invites us to live in this tension and see the world as in transition. The Last Judgment will not mean the annihilation of the world—it will mean its transformation.

Advent Christmas Journey: Part 4 – Prophets: John, Mary, Joseph

DVD Michael Himes, S.J., St. Anthony Messenger Press

Prophets live in expectation of something new. That is why they play such a prominent role in Advent. Something new is about to happen—the Savior will be born and that will change everything. With humor and wisdom, Fr. Michael Himes looks at Old Testament prophets like Isaiah and three of the key New Testament figures of Advent and shows how they inspire and challenge us today.

Advent Christmas Journey: Part 5 – The Eternal Giving of God

DVD Michael Himes, S.J., St. Anthony Messenger Press

How can we say anything new about Christmas? Himes offers a Christmas banquet of new insights into the feast day. He connects Christmas and Easter” God gives life where life could not possibly exist—in a virgin womb and an empty tomb. Himes asks us not to reject the secularization of Christmas but to reinterpret it.

Fulfilling The Promise: Small Group Faith-Sharing For The Advent-Christmas Season

(4 sessions) Ministry Center For Catholic Community, Seattle, **NOT TIED TO ANY PARTICULAR CYCLE OF LITURGICAL READINGS**

What is the real meaning of the seasons of Advent and Christmastime? They each have distinctive characteristics in communal worship and personal spirituality, important differences to respect in our festivities--it's not Christmas until Christmas Eve. Through our faithful keeping of these seasons, we enter again, here and now, into the saving power of the coming of the reign of God--past, present and future.

God In Our Midst (8 sessions) Joanne Simcik, Sheed & Ward **BASED ON CYCLE A READINGS**

As we reflect on the Cycle A Scripture readings for Advent and Christmas, we can share our stories of faith with one another and experience more deeply "the living, active Word of God alive in our midst." We will experience the fullness of this living Word when our lives give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sharing the Joy of Salvation (4 Sessions) Ministry Center for Community, Seattle **NOT TIED TO ANY PARTICULAR CYCLE OF LITURGICAL READINGS**

During the weeks of Advent many around us act like it's already Christmas. Coming together in small communities can offer support to those who choose to spend the advent season waiting, watching, and preparing, and the Christmas season celebrating Christmas.

LENTEN

Lent and Easter, *Gathered in His Name*, (6 Sessions) Margo Doten, St. Anthony Messenger Press
CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER

Lent and Easter explores the life-giving dimensions of the seasons of Lent and Easter. Each session addresses the themes of each season—the call to identity, simplicity, prayer, conversion and finally rebirth or being “fully alive” in the Spirit.

Lent and Holy Week, *Bridges to Contemplative Living* (8 Sessions) edited by Jonathan Montaldo and Robert G. Toth Editors, Ave Maria Press

The “sackcloth and ashes” of our Lenten observance is a metaphor for our renewed intentions to transcend our habits of living that deflect our concerns for the needs of our neighbors. Lenten discipline is a personal and communal effort to reinvigorate our efforts to live beyond our shallow and too-constricted communities.

Lenten Journey: Endless Possibilities DVD (Session 1) Cycle A St. Anthony Messenger Press,
Fr. Michael Himes

Fr. Himes draws fascinating insights from the Lenten Sunday liturgical readings, and in particular the stories of water, light and life from the Gospel of John (Year A.) The DVDs and reflection questions help us reflect on the implications of our baptismal faith.

Lenten Journey: Danger and Desire DVD (Session 2) Cycle A St. Anthony Messenger Press,
Fr. Michael Himes

Fr. Himes draws fascinating insights from the Lenten Sunday liturgical readings, and in particular the stories of water, light and life from the Gospel of John (Year A.) The videos and reflection questions help us reflect on the implications of our baptismal faith .

Lenten Journey: God Sees Into the Heart DVD (Session 3) Cycle A St. Anthony Messenger Press,
Fr. Michael Himes

Fr. Himes draws fascinating insights from the Lenten Sunday liturgical readings, and in particular the stories of water, light and life from the Gospel of John (Year A.) The videos and reflection questions help us reflect on the implications of our baptismal faith .

Lenten Journey: What is Temptation? DVD (Session 4) Cycle A St. Anthony Messenger Press, Fr.
Michael Himes

Fr. Himes draws fascinating insights from the Lenten Sunday liturgical readings, and in particular the stories of water, light and life from the Gospel of John (Year A.) The videos and reflection questions help us reflect on the implications of our baptismal faith .

Lenten Longings: Let Yourself Be... (Cycle A) Catherine T. Nerney, Liguori

The heart of the Lenten mystery and its deepest lessons are about surrender. To such a life, we must give ourselves over. We must let ourselves be ultimately transformed by the One in whom ‘we live and move and have our being.’ For this reason, these reflections invite us to ‘let ourselves be...’ so that together and alone we may be moved during this holy season by the Loving Presence who longs for us far more than we long for life itself.

Lenten Longings: For the Life of the World (Cycle B)

Catherine T. Nerney, Liguori

The particular longing that inspires these reflections on Cycle B is “for the life of the world.” To this God of our longing, who let go of all divinity, taking on our human flesh in Jesus Christ, so that ‘the world might be saved through him’; to this saving God we entrust our lives and our communities this Lent.

Lenten Longings: Seeing With God’s Eyes (Cycle C) Catherine T. Nerney, Liguori

Throughout this Lenten season, we long to attune our vision, for the gift to see ourselves, one another, and our world ‘with God’s eyes.’ So, let us pay close attention to the Spirit’s presence and action throughout these weeks.

Seven Last Words of Christ, The(7 Chapters) Alice Camille, ACTA Publications

Jesus’ final sayings from the cross—reach far beyond Good Friday and the hill of Calvary. They speak to today’s believers, summarizing Christ’s final instructions about all that is important for Christian living.

Working Toward Sainthood: Daily Reflections for Lent

All three Sunday cycles plus weekday reflections (8 Sections including Holy Week)
Alice Camille, Twenty-Third Publications

These daily meditations are prayerful, penetrating, often humorous and always hopeful. Each short essay on the day’s Mass readings begins with an intriguing, single-word invitation and ends with an “Idea of the Day” which provides a springboard for prayers, actions, discussion or further reflection.

SPECIFIC SCRIPTURE MATERIAL

Acts of The Apostles: Building Faith Communities (7 chapters) with Leader’s Guide, Leonard Doohan, Resource Publications

Acts is a wonderful book to read for any disciple but especially for anyone involved in the ongoing renewal of parish life today. Luke’s description of the life of the early Church is not only a historical portrait but also a model of the way every generation of Church should follow. Luke writes in an extraordinarily challenging way conveying to readers his own enthusiasm for the Lord Jesus and the Church.

Book of James: Pearls for Wise Living, The DVD (10 Sessions) Jeff Cavins (Great Adventure Bible Study) Ascension Press

Book of Revelation

VIDEO (1 session) Fr. Paul Fachel, Twenty-Third Publications

It's the most controversial and talked-about book of Scripture. What is the meaning behind the symbols, the imagery, the numbers? What is the mystery behind its pages? Fr. Paul Fachel, professor of biblical theology, offers some fascinating insights into the Book of Revelation, and addresses some of the most commonly asked questions.

Gospel of Mark, The, *Gathered in His Name*, (6 Sessions) Margo Doten, St. Anthony Messenger Press **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER**

The Gospel of Mark focuses on the evangelical life of Mark and what it means to be a follower of Christ. Topics discussed are: the mystery of Jesus, the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and his passion, death and resurrection. Mark's Gospel is unique in that it does not emphasize the things Jesus said or taught, but rather the events in his life—his baptism, his encounters with all kinds of people, his healings, miracles, travels and confrontations with those in power, his death and resurrection, and ultimately what it means and what it takes to be a follower of Christ

Gospel of Matthew, The, *Gathered in His Name*, (6 Sessions) Margo Doten, St. Anthony Messenger Press **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER**

The Gospel of Matthew focuses on the reign of God, or the kingdom of heaven, and God's call to reform our lives. The Gospel of Matthew is renowned for its clear and organized explanations of Jesus' life and teachings. Matthew's Gospel is the most often quoted, simply because here, more than any other place in the Bible, the words of Jesus Christ appear in clear and understandable language. In Matthew's Gospel we hear Jesus' call to repent and make way for the "kingdom of heaven" – not just in the after life but in our lives today.

Matthew's Gospel John Gilchrist and Judy Andrews, Paulist Press

Written in 85 A.D. to strengthen the faith of the early Jewish converts to Christianity, the gospel of Matthew provides evidence that Jesus truly was the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Torah. Like the scribes and Pharisees who interpreted the old law, we are called as his disciples to interpret Jesus, the new law, the revelation of God to the world around us.

Philippians: Joy Under Stress (13 sessions) Serendipity

Philippians is the letter of joy. Joy permeates its pages from start to finish. This is not joy forged out of privilege and abundance. It is not the joy of people who have no problems to face. This is joy in the midst of hard situations.

Vision of The Gospels, The DVD (4 sessions with reflection questions) Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Fr. Himes focuses on how the ancient Christian communities that created the Gospels speak to the demands of discipleship today.

SPIRITUALITY

Adjusting Your Life's Vision, Bridges to Contemplative Living (8 sessions) edited by Jonathan Montaldo & Robert G. Toth, Ave Maria Press *Booklet Seven*

“We must all believe in love and in peace. We must believe in the power of love. We must recognize that our being itself is grounded in love; that is to say, that we come into being because we are loved and because we are meant to love others. The failure to believe this and to live accordingly creates instead a deep mistrust, a suspicion of others, a hatred of others, a failure to love.”

As I Have Loved You

(6 Sessions) Christopher Ruff, Novo Millenio Press

When you think of conversion, is your first impulse to think more of the turning away from sin or the turning toward God . . . Read the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 1-17) then read the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-16.) Both have to do with conversion, with turning away from sin and toward God. How are they distinct from each other, starting with the difference in the way they are stated? [*As I Have Loved You*]

Awakening The Mystic Within: Graced Vision (6 sessions) Frank Tuoti, RENEW International

This generous collection of beautiful and inspiring reflections is designed to fire the hearts and stir the souls of those beginning the contemplative journey. The series leads SCC members to investigate the rich mystical heritage and tradition of the church.

Baptism, To Live in Christ(6 sessions) Paulist Press

Baptism, part four of the five part series, *To Live in Christ*, encourages small group participants to explore baptism as the sacramental action that joins individuals into an intimate union with Jesus. We expand our understanding of that union, how it also unites us with the church, and how it is foundational to our spiritual life as Christians. **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER ADDITIONAL COPIES**

Becoming Who You Already Are, Bridges to Contemplative Living (8 sessions) edited by Jonathan Montaldo & Robert G. Toth, Ave Maria Press *Booklet Two*

God has a vision from all eternity of the personhood of each one of us. We are each free, and therefore unique. Two Jewish sayings attributed to Martin Buber are “God never does the same thing twice” and “The universe has need of each single person.” If I were exactly the same as somebody else, there would be no reason for me to exist. Our aim is to become truly ourselves, to realize the vision that God has of each one of us from eternity.

Beliefs: Basic Christianity (7 Sessions) Lyman Coleman, Serendipity

The Apostles' Creed is the earliest confession of faith in the Christian church. It was written at a time when the early Christians were quite susceptible to false teachings. They needed a statement which summarized the beliefs of the Christian faith as it had been handed on by the Apostles. Written around 150 A.D., the Apostles' Creed is unique in that it summarizes the basic tenets of the Christian faith which have withstood the test of time.

Catching Fire, Becoming Flame (DVD, 6 Sessions with accompanying book, Fr. Albert Haase, Paraclete Press

“Do you need a spiritual tune-up? Ever wonder how some people become enthusiastic and on fire about their relationship with God? In this six-session DVD presentation, Fr. Albert Haase gives you the tools and the kindling. . . His teaching glows with time-tested wisdom as an experienced spiritual director shares the secrets of the saints.”

Catholics Continuing the Journey Sally Mews, Liguori

This series is designed to be a small-group faith-sharing experience for Catholics who are seeking to renew and strengthen their faith. The objective is for participants to update and develop a more mature understanding of their image of God, self, and Church and to deepen their relationship with the Lord and others."

Chasing Francis (11 Chapters, Ian Morgan Cron, NavPress

Chasing Francis is not a history or spirituality book, though it contains elements of both. It is a novel that touches a little of something in the inner troubles of most of us who try to follow Jesus faithfully in a modern western environment.

One reason Saint Francis is difficult for Christians of any era to understand is that his manner of life is so disturbingly true to the gospel. We read the stories of his life and are forced to ask, “What’s my excuse?” His radical faith takes a wrecking ball to the beige, vanilla faiths so many of us have settled for in postmodernity.

Choosing Compassion: The Paradox of Power Michael Crosby, OFM Cap,

Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order

In the Scriptures the heart represents the core of all persons, their unique “I am” made in God’s image. The goal of “Choosing Compassion” is to have the heart or the “I am” of every small community participant “moved with compassion” for everyone and everything in the universe.

NEW

Come Follow Me: Six Responses to the Call of Jesus DVD Series (6 Sessions with Discussion Questions) Fr. Albert Haase, OFM, Paraclete Press

On this DVD, Fr. Haase highlights six of the most vital spiritual traditions in the history of the Church. Small Community members will be surprised at how much of our everyday spirituality has roots in one of more of the great spiritual traditions explored in this series. What parts of your spirituality are like Benedictine, Cistercian, Carmelite, Dominican, Franciscan or Jesuit?

Conversion: The Heart of the Matter VIDEO/DVD (1 session) RENEW International

This video proclaims Christ as truly at the center of Small Church Communities and the lives of its members. It affirms that the renewal of our Church and of our world requires much more than a superficial restructuring; it requires a transformation that begins in our hearts.

Discipleship, Live in Christ (6 sessions) Paulist Press

Part two *Discipleship* of the five part series, *To Live in Christ*, encourages small group participants to explore discipleship which literally means *embracing the teachings of another*. Embracing the gospel message of love and being a disciple of the Word are examined in light of our own spiritual journey. **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER COPIES**

Discovering Christian Classics DVD (5 Sessions) Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and Lauren F. Winner, Paraclete Press

This brand new series makes it possible for small communities to reflect on some of the foundational classics of Christian Spiritual. Topics of the series include: *Desert Fathers and Mothers; St. Benedict's Rule of Life; St. John Chrysostom's Writings; The Cloud of Unknowing* and *Imitation of Christ by Thomas 'a Kempis*. The complete texts of some of these writings are available online when you Google the titles.

Discovering The Hidden Ground of Love, Bridges to Contemplative Living (8 sessions) edited by Jonathan Montaldo & Robert G. Toth, Ave Maria Press *Booklet Four*

To love one another and God, and thus to find and love our true selves, is a consistently fragile enterprise. Our failures cause our tears. Merton advises, however, that we regard even our inexplicable failures to be true to ourselves with compassion, for "all that is poor deserves mercy."

Entering the School of Your Experience, Bridges to Contemplative Living

(8 sessions) Jonathan Montaldo and Robert G. Toth editors, Ave Maria Press *Booklet One*

Moments of "metanoia" when our souls change, are moments of sadness or happiness that turn us to living more deeply, consciously embracing our vocations as persons of faith. We are not "struck off our horses" once and for all as St. Paul was, but experience these moments of continuing conversion all the time, every day. Contemplative living is an attitude of open responsiveness to hearing these "new words" that God want us to hear through our life-stories. We remain open and pray to be changed into the person God calls us to be.

Eucharist: Exploring the Diamond of Our Faith Dennis J. Billy, C.S.S.R. Twenty-Third Publications

In an engaging style, Father Dennis Billy looks with the eyes of faith at the significant passages on the Eucharist in the four gospels, Acts, and the letters of Paul. He guides readers in delving more deeply into the meaning of these passages, to appreciate more fully the tremendous gift of the Eucharist and its meaning for our lives. Questions for faith sharing are included.

Eucharist, To Live in Christ(6 sessions) Paulist Press

Eucharist is the fifth of the five part series, *To Live in Christ*. Eucharist is the greatest of sacraments, yet understanding it fully is impossible. The study for this season explains Eucharist as sacrifice, sacrament, and presence, providing us with deeper insights and a richer awareness of this mystery.. **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER ADDITIONAL COPIES**

Foundations of Christianity DVD (5-sessions) Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger

Spirituality and theology are rich, varied and multidimensional. But what holds it all together? For Christians, what is “foundational?” What is the core of our blessed path to God? This series presents a wonderful venue to the exploration of *Mystery, Conversion, Faith, Hope* and *Love*. Each video is 23 to 25 minutes long with sharing questions.

Fresh Air: The Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life (Introduction and 8 Chapters with brief DVD intro to each chapter) Jack Levison, Paraclete Press

“I’ve never found the Bible to be stultifying. I’ve always found it to be unsettling. This book follows suit. It may unsettle you because the presence of the holy spirit is unsettling, particularly when we take the whole of the Bible, and not just cherished and familiar passages into consideration.. If your views unravel a bit, keep reading, and you will discover unexpected and rich ways of experiencing the holy spirit.” Jack Levison.

Greatest of These is Love, The: Reflections from the Heart of St. Paul 6 Sessions Christopher Ruff, Novo Millenio Press

Paul is presented by many as a pugnacious man who was well able to wield the sword of his words. Indeed there was no lack of disputes on his journey as an apostle. He did not seek a superficial harmony...But what most deeply motivated him was being loved by Jesus Christ and the desire to communicate this love to others. Paul was a man capable of loving and all of his actions and suffering can only be explained on the basis of this core sentiment. [Benedict XVI, Inaugural Homily June 28, 2008, Year of St. Paul]

His Word (7 sessions) David Knight, St. Anthony Messenger Press

"We don't know how much Christ's words mean to us until we begin to take them for real" says the author. And how do we do this? Jesus gives three reasons why his Word fails to bear fruit in people's hearts. He points toward the one thing which, more than anything else, helps us to become and remain good ground for the growth of his Word. Each chapter ends with a summary of that chapter's theme and key thoughts, a specific goal to strive for and questions for reflection/discussion.

Holy Spirit 101: Present Among Us John Gresham, Liguori Publications (Introduction and Four Chapters)

A “must read” book in simple, down-to-earth, experiential language. The author brings together the teachings on the Holy Spirit as found in the Scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the worlds of our recent popes.

If You Want to Walk on Water , You've Got to Get Out of the Boat , 10 Chapter book with reflection questions, John Ortberg, Zondervan

“ Peter may have been the first one out of the boat, but Jesus’ invitation to walk on water is for you as well. That’s where you’ll meet him : out where the sea is high and the footing impossible. As a follower of Jesus, you want to go where he calls you. But walk on water ? What does that mean ? In his engaging and humorous style, John Ortberg reflects on the biblical story in Matthew 14. .When human beings get out to the boat, they are never quite the same. ‘”

Jesus 101: God and Man

John Gresham, Liguori Publications (Introduction and Five Chapters)

Readers desiring an authoritative, yet understandable overview of Catholic teaching on the doctrinal and scriptural background of the human and diving Jesus need look no further than this book. This is an introductory course in the theology of Jesus without the academic vocabulary.

Jesus, To Live in Christ(6 sessions) Paulist Press

Part One, *Jesus*, of the five part series, *To Live in Christ*. encourages small group participants to reconsider preconceived “holy card” images of Jesus. It helps people connect deeply with the reality of who Jesus was and what he means for us so that we can come to know him, now with our head but with our heart. **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER ADDITIONAL COPIES**

Journey of the Sacred: St. Clare of Assisi (6 sessions) Rosemary Bleuher, Denise La Giglia, Rev. Gil Ostdiek, OFM and Robert Piercy GIA Publications, [with accompanying music on CD]

For Clare of Assisi, transformation rather than conversion, was her spiritual journey. “For Clare, it was a matter of choosing a way of life integral to who she was. What she models for us is a process of bringing oneself to relationships to find if they fit who we are and then continuing on in that direction... Our world and our church are in need of respect for the differences each one brings to enrich us all and of an indiscriminate charity for all.”

Journey of the Sacred: St. Francis of Assisi

(6 sessions) Rosemary Bleuher, Denise La Giglia, Rev. Gil Ostdiek, OFM and Robert Piercy GIA Publications, [with accompanying music on CD]

“It is easy to view Francis as a charming romantic, hopelessly out of touch with the real world in which most people must now live. But Francis was a child of his time. In him breathed all the aspirations of a new world just beginning to take shape. Dreams of knightly power and glory collided in him with dreams of a world in which all would find equal dignity and acceptance. Could he free himself from the oh-so-pleasant tyranny of money?” This is a great series for small communities to reflect on the life and challenge of St. Francis of Assisi.

Journey of the Sacred: St. John of the Cross (6 sessions) Rosemary Bleuher, Denise La Giglia, Rev. Dennis Paul and Robert Piercy GIA Publications, [with accompanying music on CD]

The mystical spirituality of St. John of the Cross, born out of the pain and joy of his life, is made available to the members of small communities in this easy to use series. What a pleasure to reach into Catholic tradition to reflect on the life of this often quoted saint.

Journey of the Sacred: St. Teresa of Avila

(6 sessions)] Rosemary Bleuher, Denise La Giglia, Rev. Dennis Paul and Robert Piercy GIA Publications, [with accompanying music on CD]

Focusing on the life of St. Teresa of Avila, this series invites small communities to enter into the life and writing of this beloved saint in an easy and accessible way. “St. Teresa is one saint whose humanity and battles we can all understand. [As a teenager] she enjoyed looking pretty..she flirted, fell in love, smuggled out love letters . . .” Teresa suffered illness throughout her life, was brought before the Spanish Inquisition, and founded the Carmelite order. Her life and spirituality of prayer are fascinating. Her writings form a part of our Catholic tradition which is worth exploring

Keeping the Fire Alive . DVD

(6 Sessions) Fr. Albert Haase, Paraclete , Loyola Press

This is a follow-up DVD to the popular DVD series and book, *Catching Fire, Becoming Flame*. “Do you need a spiritual tune-up? Ever wonder how some people become enthusiastic and on fire about their relationship with God? In this six-session DVD presentation, Fr.. Albert Haase gives you the tools and the kindling. . . His teaching glows with time-tested wisdom as an experienced spiritual director shares the secrets of the saints.”

Letters to Marc About Jesus (7 chapters) with Leader's Guide Henri J. Nouwen

These simple but profound letters are Henri Nouwen at his best as he tells of an enduring spiritual journey toward a life centered in Jesus.

Living From the Center (How to Pray) (1 session) DVD, Fr. Richard Rohr, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Despite numerous “time saving” devices, are you always short on time? Do you feel overwhelmed by all the things you “need” but can’t afford. Do you feel out of step with the one and only life you have? This DVD could help shatter false images of self, help get us out of the enslaving demands of our culture and find our true identity in God.

Living Like Francis Today (6 sessions) Marci Blum, OSF, Good Ground Press

Living Like Francis Today invites small communities to explore six Franciscan themes – living simply, humbly, prayerfully, lovingly, with care for creation, and at peace. Each session follows the same process—exploring a theme in life experience, in scripture, and in the life of Francis; then in shared context, reflecting on how to live the gospel today.

Living Your Deepest Desires, *Bridges to Contemplative Living*

(8 sessions) Jonathan Montaldo and Robert G. Toth editors, Ave Maria Press *Booklet Three*

The spiritual work of contemplative dialogue invites us to acknowledge and make ourselves present to the inner lives that each of us is living. To speak so deeply about ourselves in one another's presence, to listen so deeply to one another, is an act of faith that our salvation—becoming more who we already are—is intimately connected to the community of persons that surrounds us.

Longing for the Holy: Spirituality for Everyday Life Based on Selected Insights of Ronald Rolheiser RENEW International, 12 Sessions

This new material was written precisely for Small Church Communities. "In *Longing for the Holy*, we explore the implications of the central mysteries of faith—the Incarnation, Eucharist, and the Paschal Mystery—for spirituality. We attend to cultural challenges that keep us from realizing our true desire and we consider the important themes of church community, justice, sexuality, the practices of the spiritual life, and being a mystic of the everyday. *Longing for the Holy* respects our traditional Catholic roots yet offers a strong but flexible approach to spirituality. And because God created each of us uniquely, each one's approach to spirituality, to prayer, and to action will also be unique."

Mudhouse Sabbath: Seven Ways of Christian Formation Inspired by the Jewishness of Jesus

DVD (7 Sessions) Lauren F. Winner, Paraclete Press

This series helps Small Church Community members encounter the Jewish context that nurtured Jesus as the practices of hospitality, mindful eating, prayer, fasting and mourning are explored. "Engaging Jewish practice and tradition is one important way of overcoming the gaps that we sometimes feel exist between Jesus and ourselves."

New Way of Seeing, A . (10 Sessions) Gregory F. Augustine, Pierce, Acta Publications

A Call for conversation among Christians and with others of good will about how we relate to one another and our world, using the vision of Jesus of Nazareth as our starting point.

Prayer, *To Live in Christ* (6 sessions) Paulist Press

Prayer is the third of the five part series, *To Live in Christ*. This session explores prayer from the early days of our lives, prayers that open minds and hearts, and prayers found in Sacred Scripture—as well as prayer practices and different forms of prayer. Each of these prayers and practices can be a powerful way to strengthen spiritual growth. **CALL PARISH SCC OFFICE TO ORDER ADDITIONAL COPIES**

Questions of the Soul (5-sessions) DVD PRESENTATION with accompanying study guides, Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

In this series, Fr. Himes looks at the deep issues of spirituality and provides unique insights in his warm, often humorous, and always engaging style. The five topics included in this series include "*What is Spirituality?; What is Prayer?; What Can Suffering Teach Us?; What is Spiritual Discipline? and Do I Really Need a Community?*" Each DVD is 27 minutes long. The topics may be used individually or in sequence.

Reaching Jesus, Steps To a Fuller Life (5 Chapters) David Knight, St. Anthony Messenger

Father David Knight, author of the popular His Way and His Word, maps out a new path to a fuller life in Jesus Christ. Knight offers readers a clear and compelling guide. Those who choose to follow it will know where they are, what steps they have already taken and what steps they need to take next in order to arrive at the abundant life Jesus came to give.

Reign of God, The

VIDEO (20 min.) with reflection questions, Richard Rohr, Fisher Productions

Some of the reflection questions: "Have the decisions you made today closed off your tomorrows? If Jesus were present in the world today, where would we expect to find him? What would he be doing?"

Religious Classics with Michael Himes: Augustine of Hippo/Confessions

DVD Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Written in the 390's, Augustine's *Confessions* has been one of the central texts of the Christian theological tradition and a spiritual guide and companion to countless men and women ever since Augustine reflected on his first thirty years culminating in his profound religious conversion as a playing out of the "restless heart" which drove him forward to God. His discovery that this deep restlessness, which he had first experienced as a painful affliction, is a gift with which God has marked him and all creatures remains one of the most important and poignant recognitions in the spiritual life.

Religious Classics with Michael Himes: Friedrich Von Hugel/ The Mystical Element of Religion

DVD, Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Von Hugel is one of the great spiritual directors of the twentieth century. His most important book, first published in 1908, began as a study of the life and influence of Catherine of Genoa but quickly expanded into a magnificent synthesis of the elements which constitute a rich and healthy spiritual life. HE described these elements as responding to the human person's need for rootedness in reality, intellectual satisfaction, and fulfilling action and showed the dangers of conflict and the necessity for balance among them.

Religious Classics with Michael Himes: Ignatius of Loyola/Spiritual Exercises

DVD Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Few guides into the spiritual life are as deeply insightful and immediately practical as Ignatius' directives to those leading others through a carefully planned thirty-day retreat. Drawing on his own experience of conversion and growth, he formulated a program of "exercises" to develop heart and mind so that grace can be received as fully as possible. The steps are by no means simply a series of practices and meditations; they are integral parts of a comprehensive vision of the human being in relation to God.

Religious Classics with Michael Himes: Jonathan Edwards/Treatise on Religious Affections

DVD, Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Edwards may well be the most brilliant theologian which this country has yet produced. In the midst of the “Great Awakening,” the religious revival which swept the English-speaking colonies of the Eastern Seaboard, he was pastor of a Congregational Church in the Connecticut River valley. A defender of the “Awakening” against its critics but aware of the bizarre extremes to which it sometimes led, Edwards set out in an extraordinarily creative way to discern “marks” by which one might recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in one’s spiritual life. What he found, and how he found it, make this work of 1746 a lasting contribution to theology to the present day.

Religious Classics with Michael Himes: Julian of Norwich/Shewings of Divine Love

DVD, Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Dame Julian was a 14th-century English woman who devoted herself to a life of contemplative prayer and spiritual direction. In 1373 she experienced sixteen “shewings” or revelations of the depth and intensity of God’s love for her and all creatures. Her account of those revelations and her subsequent meditations on them are treasures of medieval spirituality and a landmark of the English spiritual tradition. With wonderful wisdom and insight Julian wrote of her personal experiences of the universal embrace of God.

Religious Classics with Michael Himes: Theresa of Avila/Autobiography

DVD Fr. Michael Himes, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Theresa of Avila (1515-82), a religious reformer, administrator, spiritual director and mystic, was named a Doctor of the Church in 1970. Theresa experienced tremendous opposition in her day by religious leaders who disparaged her visions. In this video, Michael Himes looks at her practical spiritual wisdom and presents to us a woman of integrity in a tumultuous era and in a repressive church situation. Theresa stands through the ages as an inspiration to all who dare to delve into matters of the soul.

Seeds of Faith: Practices to Grow a Healthy Spiritual Life

Jeremy Langford, Paraclete Press

The unexamined life is not worth living, Socrates tells us. And yet, it’s easy to float (or ride the rapids) from one day to the next without being awake, aware, alive. If Christianity is about anything, it’s about living an examined life and seeking meaning. Jesus himself remains one of the most passionate seekers of all time. He sought to understand his purpose on earth, and once he found it, he devoted his life to spreading justice, love, mercy, healing, and reconciliation. Jesus’ great question to us all is “What do you seek?”

NEW

Saying Yes, What is God’s Will for Me? DVD (6 Sessions) Fr. Albert Haase, OFM, Paraclete Press

Discerning God’s will is an ongoing process—not a static, one-time decision! Albert Haase, OFM, scholar of Christian spirituality and spiritual mentor to hundreds, is known for offering clear, practical advice. This series is packed with concise counsel and real-life examples, unlocking the benefits of the ancient practice of discernment.

Seeing That Paradise Begins Now, *Bridges to Contemplative Living* (8 sessions) edited by Jonathan Montaldo & Robert G. Toth, Ave Maria Press *Booklet 8*

“Often the good that is given us by God is given us only to be shared with another. If God sees that we will not pardon and will not be open, that we will not share, then the good is not given us. But to the one in whom there is the greatest readiness to share with all most is given. The greatest of gifts then is this openness, this love, this readiness to accept and to pardon and to share with others, in the Spirit of Christ.”

Simplicity: The Art of Living, (9 Chapters) Richard Rohr, Crossroad

“Religion at its best is always concerned about the depth and breadth and wonder of things. In this sense we have become an impatient and irreligious people. The paschal mystery, the yin and yang of all reality, is outshouted by the quite recent and unproven slogan: ‘we can have it all.’”

Teaching of the Twelve, The: believing and practicing the primitive Christianity of the ancient didache community (7 chapters) ACCOMPANYING DVD Tony Jones, Paraclete Press

“Before the New Testament was written, much less compiled, the early Christians had to figure out what their community of faith would look like. The Didache (DID-ah-kay) is a document that gives us a glimpse into those early years before creeds (Council of Nicea – AD 325) were written and church hierarchies and orders were put into place (Constantine – AD 313) and most likely before any of the Apostle Paul’s letters were written.

The document was not considered to be sacred and was not added to the canon of the New Testament, but that does not make the contents unimportant. The writing has very little to do with theology-what to think about God’ instead the focus is on how believers should live with each other.”

Teilhard de Chardin’s Cosmic Christology and Christian Cosmology under the Influence of Jesus: The Transforming Experience of Encountering Christ. DVD (12 Sessions) Fr. Donald Grogan, OP, PhD, Now You Know Media

One of the most celebrated spiritual minds of the twentieth century, Teilhard de Chardin was both a respected scientist and a Jesuit priest. He combined an evolutionary worldview with his commitment to the Christian tradition and the Catholic faith. A pioneer in the dialogue between religion and science, he remains a widely influential mystical voice.

Traveling Your Road to Joy, *Bridges to Contemplative Living*

(8 sessions) Jonathan Montaldo and Robert G. Toth editors, Ave Maria Press *Booklet Five*

Joy in its innumerable facets is the gem we examine in these sessions...Joy is not a reward for our practice but is always a gift of the Holy Spirit mediated through all the events of our daily lives. Joy is not a “state” but the presence of a Person whose face we encounter in all the faces of the persons we meet.

Under the Influence of Jesus: The Transforming Experience of Encountering Christ.

(9 Chapters) Joe Paprocki, Loyola Press

The kingdom of God—"now there's a strange place! Folks in the kingdom of God speak and act very differently indeed. There, the poor are considered 'blest'; enemies are loved; persecutors are prayed for; the exalted are humbled and the humbled, exalted; sins are forgiven (not just seven times but seventy times seven times); feet are washed by the master; and new life is gained through death. Likewise, when the folks in this topsy-turvy kingdom speak, their conversations are laced with references to compassion, charity, justice, fortitude, forgiveness, gratitude, patience, kindness, gentleness, and a host of unlikely concepts." This is a great book for small communities to reencounter, together, Jesus!

Where Your Treasure Is...Gems of Catholic Spirituality For Our Time (6 sessions) Ministry Center For Catholic Community, Seattle, WA

Catholic spirituality has developed over many centuries, through different cultural and historical situations and by all kinds of people. Those insights which time has proven authentic are firmly anchored in the gospel and in the constant tradition of the Church. For this booklet, a few jewels have been chosen from among the many riches of our spiritual tradition. It is hoped that by reflecting on them and sharing your own stories you will discover new facets of both our spiritual heritage and your life of faith.

Who is My Neighbor? (6 Sessions) Christopher Ruff, Novo Millenio Press

There cannot be two parallel lives in existence: on the one hand, the so-called "spiritual" life, with its values and demands; and on the other, the so-called "secular" life, that is, life in a family, at work, in social relationships, in the responsibilities of public life and in culture. The branch, engrafted to the vine which is Christ, bears its fruit in every sphere of existence and activity. In fact, every area of the lay faithful's lives, as different as they are, enters into the plan of God, who desires that these very areas be the places in time where the love of Christ is revealed and realized for both the glory of the Father and service of others.

[John Paul II, *The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People - cristefidelis laici*]

Wisdom of Faith (5 sessions) **VIDEO** with Huston Smith

This Bill Moyers Program distills what we can learn from the great religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Smith shows how the cultivation of virtues valued by all religions can lead to transcendence. In the many faces of God he has contemplated, Smith sees no conflict. **The series is available in the General Circulation of the Resource Center/Library in the "I" video category section.**

Writing Yourself Into the Book of Life, *Bridges to Contemplative Living*

(8 sessions) Jonathan Montaldo and Robert G. Toth editors, Ave Maria Press *Booklet Six*

Whatever we do and especially who we are is a testimony of love for everyone else to read. Our lives are words of God to everyone whom we encounter. Our responses to life are our words to God. God reads the book we are writing as we live out our destinies chapter by chapter. Writing our own chapter in God's Book of Life is the deepest purpose to our having been born.

WOMEN

Chronicles of Noah and Her Sisters: Genesis and Exodus According to Women (74 brief reflections) Miriam Therese Winter, Crossroads, New York

Re-imagined from a woman's perspective, these familiar events delight the imagination and stir the soul in refreshing new ways. According to the author, she is presenting us with an ancient manuscript that was written long ago by one of the many wives of Solomon. This woman writer, named Noah, feared the loss of women's perspective as written record began replacing oral traditions.

Feminine Face of God

(10 Chapters) Sherry Ruth Anderson, Patricia Hopkins, Bantam

For many contemporary women, the old patriarchal models of religion are no longer relevant. The authors show how many women have redefined traditional beliefs and rediscovered their unique spiritual heritage.

Hidden Women of the Gospels (19 Stories) Kathy Coffey, Orbis Books

These are first-person testimonies of women near Jesus who never got to tell their stories – until now. These twenty-one imaginings of behind-the-scenes Gospel women will inspire and enthrall you.

Rattling Those Dry Bones: Women Changing the Church (22 Chapters)

Editor June Steffensen Hagen, LuraMedia

Every woman who has ever questioned her place in the church will find a kindred spirit in these pages. Editor June Steffensen Hagen asked a number of prominent women church leaders and theologians, "What holds you in the church?" and "How did you get to where you are without losing heart?" Twenty-two women of faith give voice to their journeys.

Their Stories, Our Stories Rose Sallberg Kam, Continuum

This book is divided into two sections which focus on the stories of women from the Old and New Testaments. Each chapter presents the background, story, and a reflection on a particular woman or women in the Scripture. Also included in each chapter is a prayer, questions that enable people to make connections with the stories of the women and their own lives, and suggestions for further reading.

Wisdom's Daughters Stories of Women Around Jesus, Elizabeth G. Watson, Pilgrim Press

The life of Jesus through the real and imagined accounts of Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth, Matha, Mary the Mother, and ten others shedding new light on the Gospel stories. Contains questions for group reflection.

Woman to Woman: Beyond Stereotypes and Status (7 sessions) Serendipity

There is no doubt the role of women has changed dramatically over the past few decades. Women are entering the workforce in record numbers. We are all trying to juggle all our increased responsibilities. We are being more intentional about realizing our full potential. And our full potential includes caring for ourselves, for our family and friends, and for others. We have homes, careers, relationships, and hopefully, a personal life.

Women Like Us: Wisdom For Today's Issues

(13 Studies) Harold Shaw Publishers

Here is a study guide that deals head-on with contemporary issues women face—singleness, sanctity of life, infertility, caring for aging parents, materialism, and the role of women in marriage and ministry. All of these issues were faced by women in the Bible—women like us. Like Hannah, Deborah, and Esther, you can make a difference in your family, your church, and your community.

Women's Role in The Church, (6 sessions) Joan Chittister, Sheed and Ward

"With the acknowledgment that women too have spiritual insights and theological creativity, we have the beginning of the expression of a feminine spirituality and a feminist theology that is both a critique and a call to traditional constructs. With the development of feminist exegesis, we have a rich reading of scripture and a freer expression of liturgy. With a church that is becoming both male and female--theologically, liturgically, pastorally--we have the beginnings of a celebrating human family." This series explores women's past, present and future roles in the church.

Women, Work and Gospel Values (6 sessions) Mary E. Head and Janet Gilligan, Sheed and Ward

Seven sessions directed especially toward helping women integrate their spiritual life and everyday work experiences--offering a look at roles, new models and new ways of understanding the role of women in a new age.

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