

Ideas to Follow-up Our Area Faith Community Missions

By Bryan Reising

I have been gathering ideas for follow-up to our Area Faith Community Missions and resources for Adult Faith Formation. I have consulted pastors, DREs, those who work directly with Adult Faith Formation, and experts around the country. Within our own diocese, parishes and Area Faith communities have implemented Bible studies, small Christian communities, intergenerational catechesis, and guest speakers for adults. The following is a list of some ideas:

Retreats

- ❖ "Living in Christ" retreats have been implemented in many parishes throughout the country. It is held on a Thursday evening with a meal, a Friday evening with a meal, and a Saturday morning concluding with mass, lunch and a ministry fair (which can be left up for the weekend masses). The theme is the Paschal Mystery of Dying in Christ and Living in Christ. For further information, Order the *Handbook for Success in Whole Community Catechesis* from Twenty-Third Publications. See the following website: <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/viewproduct.php?prodid=953083>
- ❖ "Evangelization Retreat" from SINE (Systematic Integral New Evangelization). It is an opportunity for adults to hear the gospel message proclaimed, to discuss and contemplate that message, and to respond to that message through a renewal of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This weekend retreat is part of a plan for evangelization for parishes. It is also available in Spanish. For further information, contact Bryan Reising, Director of Adult Faith Formation, at 507-359-2966.
- ❖ "Christ Renews Our Parish" or CRHP (chirp) is a renewal retreat for parishes done on a weekend. The theme is the Paschal Mystery. For further information, contact St. Michael Parish in Saint Michael, MN at 763-497-2745.
- ❖ "Called and Gifted" is a retreat/workshop that helps the participants discern their gifts and how to use them for service to the Church and society. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.siena.org/Workshops.htm>

Small Christian Community Formation

- ❖ "Small Christian Community Connection" offers plenty of resources to help form small Christian communities. For further

information, see the following website:

<http://www.buenavista.org/>

- ❖ "The National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Small Christian Communities" has many resources for small Christian communities. For further information, see the following website: <http://naprc.faithweb.com/interest.htm>

Intergenerational Catechesis

- ❖ "Generations of Faith" is a process for creating lifelong, intergenerational faith formation for the whole parish community. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.generationsoffaitth.org/index.cfm?CFID=2526&CFTOKEN=64915092>
- ❖ Whole Community Catechesis is a process consisting on helpful ideas to begin and sustain intergenerational catechesis. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/viewproduct.php?prodid=951846>
- ❖ Harcourt Religion Publishers has additional information on whole community catechesis: http://www.harcourtreligion.com/wcc_what_is_it.asp
- ❖ RCL/Benziger has further information on whole community catechesis as well: <http://www.wholecommunitycatechesis.com/whatDEF.html>
- ❖ "Family Formation" is an intergenerational model created in a parish in Minnesota. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.churchofsaintpaul.com/familyformation/>

Bible Studies

- ❖ "Six Weeks with the Bible" series by Loyola Press (English and Spanish). This is a theme-based Bible study. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.loyolabooks.org/seriesdetail.asp?prodcatname=Bible>
- ❖ "Little Rock Scripture Study" (English and Spanish) They have lectionary, theme-based, and book by book Bible studies. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.littlerockscripture.org/en/Default.htm>
- ❖ Jeff Cavins' Bible Studies: "Great Adventures." This is a good study of Bible history. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.greatadventureonline.com/>
- ❖ Threshold Bible Study is a theme-based Bible study. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.thresholdbiblestudy.com/>

- ❖ Various Bible Studies from Liguori Publications. They are also coming out with a new Bible study soon. See the following website: <http://www.liguori.org/showproducts.cfm?FullCat=610>

Catechism

- ❖ "The Growing Faith Project" by Twenty-Third Publications. This treats 48 various themes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. You can make unlimited copies for your participants from your parish. It includes a facilitator's guide and PowerPoint presentation. See the following website: <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/Search%20List/GrowingFaithProject.php>
- ❖ "Echoes of Faith" by RCL/Benziger in collaboration with NCCL is in stock at the Diocesan Media Center. It covers various themes and booklets can be purchased through the following website: <http://www.rclweb.com/html/productSamples/eofPages/eof.html>
- ❖ "The United States Catechism for Adults" This is our local catechism for the United States. It could be used as a resource or group study. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=702>
- ❖ "Catholic Basics Series" by Loyola Press (English and Spanish). This series covers a wide range of areas of study. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.loyolabooks.org/seriesdetail.asp?prodcatname=Adult%20Faith%20Formation>

Catholic Social Teaching

- ❖ "JustFaith" is a conversion-based process that seeks to provide a context in which participants can grow in their commitment to care for the vulnerable and to become advocates for justice. JustFaith is an extended justice education process that meets weekly employing books, videos, guest speakers, discussion, prayer, retreats and hands-on experiences. Participants are also afforded the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.justfaith.org/JF1212.html>
- ❖ "A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching" by Rev. Kevin McKenna covers the seven tenets of Catholic Social Teaching. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.avemariapress.com/itemdetail.cfm?nItemid=475>

- ❖ USSCB resources for Catholic Social Teaching Like “Sharing Catholic Social Teaching” and “In the Footsteps of Jesus”: <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=5-318>
In addition, the USCCB has resources through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development with their “Sharing the Tradition – Shaping the Future” study series and through resources from Catholic Charities USA.

Eucharist

- ❖ “Living Liturgy” is a lectionary based resource and study for people involved in liturgical and catechetical ministries. The “Spirituality” sections can be used for study. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.litpress.org/Series.aspx?ID=79>
- ❖ “Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church” is a six week study for the whole parish or small Christian communities to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist. For further information, see the website: <http://www.catholicfaithsharing.com/lpirc/cfs/ViewCfsProductPage.do?page=productSacramentsSSJsp>
- ❖ “The Mystery of Faith” is for small group study. It guides the study group through each part of the Mass in detail by outlining the historical development, quoting in full the relevant official documents, providing theological reflection and presenting discussion questions. It is also available in Spanish. For further information, see the following website: <http://www.fdlc.org/Publications/TheMass.htm#TheMysteryofFaith>:
- ❖ The Eucharistic Community (PNCEA) helps parishioners to know the Mass and to love more deeply the gift of the Eucharist by reflecting on and discussing the parts of the Mass. For further information, see the following website: http://www.pncea.org/store/index.asp?DEPARTMENT_ID=73

Speaker Lists

- ❖ Please contact Bryan Reising from the Diocesan Office of Adult Faith Formation for some ideas and a list of speakers for your parish or Area Faith Community. He can be reached at 507-359-2966.

Processes for Returning Catholics

- ❖ “Catholics Returning Home” is an RCIA-like process for reaching out and inviting inactive Catholics to return "home" to the Church and resume an active practice of their faith. It is

conducted in a non-judgmental support-group format. However, a sequence of topics on the basics of Catholicism is covered during the six-week series so that attendees are updated. The process is both formational and informational. For further information contact: Sally Mews, Chicago, IL; phone: 847-855-0629; e-mail: ssmews@msn.com

- ❖ “We Miss You” is an outreach program to inactive Catholics developed by the Omaha Archdiocesan Commission on Evangelization. It combines the faith journey of the RCIA process with a modern media campaign of invitation. What makes this program unique is the fact that it is a "complete process." The We Miss You program is documented in book form under the same name. The authors are Gary Petri, Nancy Koley, and Sr. Marian Klostermann, OSF. For further information: Sheed and Ward Publishing, 7373 Lovers Land Road, Franklin, WI 53132; phone: 800-558-0850; fax: 800-369-4448