

WHAT IS A SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY?

Small Christian Communities are gatherings of Christians who come together regularly to seek ways to respond to God's presence in their lives and in the world. They share their human stories and their faith with one another. They read the scriptures together, they pray and they sometimes sing. Together they perform outreach/service as an extension of blessings received. They most often meet in one another's homes. There may be five or six people, or ten or twelve, or more.

WHO BELONGS?

The types of people who belong reflect the wider body of God's people – parents, children, singles, grandparents, teenagers, empty nesters, working and retired people, priests, religious sisters and brothers – in short, “the body of Christ.” The members know one another personally. They offer support to one another. They are usually active in their parish community, and they seek to respond to the needs of people in the wider community.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES?

“Small communities are powerful vehicles for adult faith formation, providing opportunities for learning, prayer, mutual support, and the shared experience of Christian living and service to Church and society...We welcome this phenomenon as a sign of the ‘Church’s vitality’...”

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States, U.S. Bishops, 1999

Advent/Lenten Resources and Training are available through the Office of Evangelization / Stewardship. Call 831-373-1834.