

Small Christian Communities and Social Justice

USCCB Publishing Services, 3211 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20017-1194

Phone: (800) 235-8722, Fax: (202) 722-8709, www.usccb.org

Faith Sharing Booklets

Each reflection/action guide for small faith groups is designed to be used in six sessions in order to enable adults to deepen their awareness of a specific theme in Catholic social teaching.

Pricing: English and Spanish, 1-9 copies, \$2.50 each, 10-24 copies, \$2.00 each, 25+ copies, \$1.50 each

Shaping the Tradition, Sharing the Future (Book I)

This 28-page booklet is the first of a series of five study guides highlighting six basic themes of Catholic social teaching. The booklet contains selected scripture readings, reflections, focus questions, and suggested group actions.

English: No. 5-451, 28 pp., Spanish: No. 5-856, 28 pp.

The Call to Family, Community, and Participation (Book II), English: No. 5-189, 28 pp., Spanish: No. 5-835, 28 pp.

Dignity of the Human Person (Book III), English: No. 5-190, 28 pp., Spanish: No. 5-850, 24 pp.

Preferential Option for and with the Poor (Book IV), English: No. 5-191, 28 pp., Spanish: No. 5-851, 28 pp.

Solidarity with the Poor (Book V), English: No. 5-192, 28 pp., Spanish: No. 5-853, 24 pp.

Center of Concern, 1225 Otis St. NE, Washington, DC 20017

Phone: (202) 635-2757, Fax: (202) 832-9494, www.coc.org; www.coc.org/focus/ej/reflections

Since 1971, the Center of Concern has offered moral vision and provided effective leadership in the struggle to end hunger, poverty, environmental decline, and injustice in the United States and around the world. This site provides reliable information and analysis on development issues, practical alternatives to current development policies and practices, suggestions for personal action, and faith reflections on this work for justice.

Christian Family Movement USA National Office, P.O. Box 925, Evansville, IN 47706-0925

Phone: (812) 962-5508, FAX: (812) 962-5509, www.cfm.org, Email: office@cfm.org

EVERDAY CHRISTIANITY - A CFM Response - \$7.50

A parish afternoon or evening of reflection on Everyday Christianity. The program is designed to assist a parish in creating awareness and understanding of the Catholic Bishops' pastoral "Everyday Christianity", identifying and discerning the areas where we as the faithful have a role to play in peace and justice issues.

ROOTED IN FAITH

This book is a book about contemplation that leads to action - about action that flows from social justice. The 15 meetings in the book treat action and contemplation as parallel channels of growth. The book looks at some of the saints, holy people and prophets of our time. It concludes with an in depth look at specific issues such as the homeless, the unborn, peace and justice in the Third World.

LOVE IN ACTION - The Works of Mercy in The World Today

This program takes the CFM method of Observe-Judge-Act directly to the heart of the traditional "corporal and spiritual works of mercy." It challenges participants to focus on works of mercy in their families and neighborhoods. Each of the 14 chapters concludes with appropriate involvements for various stages of a "real life."

JustFAITH, Jack Jezreel, Director, JustFaith Office, 7406 Greenlawn Road, Louisville, KY 40222

Phone: (502) 429-0865, www.justfaith.org; Email: jack@justfaith.org

JustFaith is a process. Over the course of six to nine months, participants meet weekly for readings, videos, lecture, discussion, prayer, retreats and hands-on experiences in justice education. The intent is to provide a tapestry of learning opportunities that emphasize and enliven the remarkable justice tradition of the Church.

JustFaith can be adapted for use in settings including diocesan-sponsored programs, small faith communities, high school settings and college campuses.

RENEW International, RENEW/SCC Resources, 1232 George Street, Plainfield, NJ 07062

Phone: (888) 433-3221; Fax: (908) 769-5660; E-mail: Resources@renewintl.org

www.renewintl.org and www.ParishLife.com

Beginnings: Human and World Issues, Mary C. McGuinness and Thomas A. Kleissler

Explores the integration of faith and action—Christian responsibility—in a variety of settings and situations. Acts as an excellent springboard for faith sharing and a vibrant call to action in various arenas of our world, including family, civics, work and society. (8 sessions) **1 IS \$3.50**

Beyond Black and White, Danny Duncan Collum

Unfortunately, racial issues still threaten the peace of our homes, communities, and nation. The author asks us to look at how Scripture can guide us in dealing with racial issues, and offers a reminder that religion crosses racial boundaries. (6 sessions) **18 IS \$3.50**

Civic Responsibility: What's It All About?, Mary Ann and Steve Jeselson

Encourages us to become more well-informed about the important issues that touch our lives, and more importantly, impels us to take action in a wide variety of ways. (6 sessions) **5 IS \$3.50**

Discipleship of Nonviolence, Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ

Jesus' life of peace, forgiveness, and hope in the face of violence, hatred, and despair led to the cross and Resurrection. Look at the underlying causes of violence within your own hearts, as well as its effects. Explore ways to confront the culture of violence and seek to follow Jesus as a true disciple. (7 sessions) **6 IS \$3.50**

Embracing Life: Reflections on a Vision of Life that Holds Each Person and All Creation Sacred, Michael T.

Mannion Calls us 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.

Hunger in God's World, Art Simon

A comprehensive look at hunger in today's society, including its many causes, and misconceptions about why people are hungry. Explores various ways that we can help those who are hungry, and addresses the contradiction between God's intention for the world and widespread hunger. (6 sessions) **8 IS \$3.50**

Reflections on "Dead Man Walking", Helen Prejean, CSJ & Lucille Sarrat

This exploration promises to help today's Christian in uncovering the facts and dispelling the myths of the death penalty in the light of the gospel of Jesus and Catholic teaching. Perfect for any ministry, group, or small community, these six faith-sharing reflections also look at the emotional sufferings of victims' families. (6 sessions) **21 IS \$3.50**

Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112-5876

Phone: (408) 286-8505, Fax: (408) 287-8748, www.rpinet.com/index.html

Reading the Signs of the Times: A Seven-Week Small-Group Process for Social Change

Nora Petersen, Stephen K. Hicken & Hector D. Medina, \$5.95

Reading the Signs of the Times is a tool that small Christian communities can use for identifying social needs within their larger communities and for deciding what action to take in response. The process is easy to lead but thorough. The first six sessions focus on examining a different "reality" in the larger community — in culture, the economy, the family, politics, the media and religion — using a format that combines, prayer, Scripture and reflection. The concluding session helps the group members decide on a specific social action based on their observations and reflections. Because the book is written in both English and Spanish, people used to speaking either of these two languages can achieve some unity by using the same process to examine their communities.

Parish Renewal Consulting Services, 5630 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21045

Phone/Fax: (443) 367-0257, Email: PRCS@comcast.net. All resources listed here by Betsy Lamb.

Moving Reflection into Action! Planning resources for SCCs

Flexible resource for moving a group to social ministry or action. At its core is a five-step planning process with optional accompanying reflections. Also included: three chapters introducing rationale and social teaching of scripture and church documents, and resources for facilitators and planning committees to help promote involvement and deepen personal commitment. Revised, expanded spiral-bound edition of "Send Forth Your Light," 57 pp, 1997, \$6.00

Pastoring Small Church Communities In the Catholic Parish: A "Practical Pastoring" Handbook for Facilitators. 193 pages, 1999, \$18.00

The Big "How To" Book for Small Church Communities. 148 pages, 1995, \$12.00

Paulist Press, 997 Macarthur Blvd., Mahwah, NJ 07430

Phone: (800) 218-1903, Fax: (800) 836-3161, www.paulistpress.com

Mustard Seed Communities, Inc. Work the Word is a Catholic formation program designed to build a deeper life of prayer and raise the level of awareness and commitment in service to the most vulnerable in your community and around the world. Based on a small group structure, the program is organized into two seasons and a service mission, which together, comprise a total of 10 sessions.

Work the Word: Beyond Our Boundaries - Participant's Guide Season One, \$2.95

Work the Word: Beyond Our Boundaries - Participant's Guide Season Two, \$2.95

Work the Word: Beyond Our Boundaries - Leader's Guide, \$19.95

Includes simple-to-follow directions for facilitating the gatherings. No special skills are required.

Work the Word: Beyond Our Boundaries - Leader's Mission Guide Book, \$19.95

Work the Word: Beyond Our Boundaries - Mission Journal (Participants), \$6.95

Small Community Connection, P.O. Box 745475, Arvada, CO 80006-5475

Phone: (303) 477-0180, www.sccconnect.org

Seeking Justice: The Public Life of Faith in Small Christian Communities

Peter Eichten, Michael Cowan, Bernard Lee, SM

"...public life is important in small Christian communities anywhere, but even more so in the United States today when our citizens seem so confused about the meaning of the common good." *Gretchen Hailer, RSHM Montebello, CA*

Pricing: Individual booklets: \$4.50 + S&H, Set of four (this is one book in the set): \$16.50 + S&H

Quantity discounts for 50 or more, call 303-477-6379. **To order booklets, call 303-477-0180**

The Institute for Peace and Justice, 4144 Lindell Boulevard #408, St. Louis, MO 63108

Phone: (314) 533-4445, Fax: (314) 715-6455, www.ipj-ppj.org/index.html, Email: ppjn@aol.com

Pope John Paul II. *Apostolic Exhortation on the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World (Christifidelis Laici)*. Vatican City / Washington, DC: USCC, 1989. Publication No. 274-8.

Pope John Paul II. *Ecclesia in America*: Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation to the Church in America, 1999.

Pope Paul VI. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*: On Evangelization in the Modern World, 1975.

Pope John XXIII. *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, 1963.

Synod of Bishops. *Justitia in Mundo (Justice in the World)*, 1971.

Documents of Vatican II. Northport, New York. Austin Flannery, ed., Costello Publications, 1996.

Lumen Gentium: Dogmatic Constitution of the Church.

Gaudium et Spes: Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.

NCCB Committee on Family, Laity, Women and Youth. *Called and Gifted: The American Catholic Laity*. Washington, DC: USCC, Publication No. 727-8, 1980.

NCCB Committee on Family, Laity, Women and Youth. *Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium*. Washington, DC: USCC, Publication No.5-002, 1995.

US Bishops Committee on Hispanic Affairs. *Communion & Mission: A Guide for Bishops & Pastoral Leaders on Small Church Communities*, 1995. (In English and Spanish)

US Bishops. *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*. Washington, DC: USCC, Publication No. 5-299, 1999.

US Bishops. *Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice*. Washington, DC: USCC, Publication No. 5-116.

US Bishops. *In the Footsteps of Jesus: Catholic Social Teaching at Work Today*. Washington, DC: USCCB, 2003.

Baranowski, Arthur R. *Creating Small Church Communities: A Plan for Restructuring the Parish and Renewing Catholic Life. Third Revised Edition*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, Third Edition, 1996.

Ciango, Donna L. *What Kind of Small Community Are You?* NY, NY: National Pastoral Life Center, 2000.

Currier, Richard & Frances Gram. *Forming a Small Christian Community: A Personal Journey*. Mystic, Connecticut: Twenty-Third Publications, 1992.

Darling, Barbara A. *Getting a Grip on Your Group*. St. Paul, MN: Good Ground Press, 2002. (\$4.00)

Forliti, Rev. John. *Toward The Common Good*. Orlando, FL: BROWN-ROA, 1998.

Hartford, Archdiocese of. *Belonging, Believing and Serving*. Hartford, CT: Pastoral Dept. for SCCs, 1994.

Henroit, Peter; DeBerri, Edward and Michael Schultheis. *Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1992 (9th Printing in 1999).

Kleissler, Thomas, Margo LeBert and Mary McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, Updated 1997. (\$14.95)

Lee, Bernard J. with William D'Antonio. *The Catholic Experience of Small Christian Communities*. Summary of a study examining who Small Christian Community members are, what they do in groups, why they joined and what difference the groups make. Includes theological significance and importance for the future of the church. Also offers pastoral recommendations. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2000.

Pierce, Gregory. *Activism That Makes Sense: Congregations and Community Organization*. Acta, 1997. (\$9.95)

Ulrich, Tom. *Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2001.

Vandenakker, John Paul. *Small Christian Communities and the Parish*. Kansas City, MO: Sheed & Ward, 1994.

Westley, Dick. *Good Things Happen: Experiencing Community in Small Groups*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1992.

Some Thoughts on Justice © RENEW International

- Help people see that justice is connected with faith and not merely a social/political/economic matter.
- Establish that “action on behalf of justice is...a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel.” (*Justice in the World*, Introduction, 1971)
- Approach justice from a basis of community through prayer and Scripture sharing.
- Enable people, with the support of a community, to bring up difficult issues that in other settings they would reject.
- Reach “middle ground” Catholics.
- Respond to justice zealots who are easily caught up in anger.
- Enable people to come to conclusions at their own pace.
- Reflect on the Scriptures and teachings of the Church on social justice within a supportive communal setting.
- Show respect toward all people and their opinions so that people are able, in time, to develop deeper Christian attitudes as opposed to an approach that immediately presupposes guilt.

Proverbs 31:8-9 Isaiah 10:1-2 Amos 5:7, 12, 15, 24 Micah 6:8
Mt. 5:1-16 Mt. 25:31-46 Luke 4:18-19 John 13:34-35 Acts 2:42-47 Acts 4:32-35 Romans 12:9, 21

Key themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person • Call to Family, Community and Participation • Rights and Responsibilities • Option for the Poor and Vulnerable • The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers • Solidarity • Care for God's Creation

Other Resources for Adult Faith Formation and Parish Social Ministry Formation:

Becoming a Community of Salt and Light: Formation for Parish Social Ministry Peggy Prevoznik Heins. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2003.

This resource provides a foundation in the Church's social teaching and promotes leadership development among parishioners.

Building Peace and Justice: Adult Workshops. Roberta Ann Leskey and Lucianne Siers. Villa Maria: The Center for Learning, 1990.

This book contains twelve workshops to develop an awareness of the Church's social mission and to enhance leadership training. The time required for each workshop is two and one-half hours.

Catechizing for Justice: A Six-Session Program to Promote the Gospel Mission. Janet I. Miller. San Jose: Resource Publications, Inc., 2001.

Each of the six sessions covers a basic church teaching: human dignity, structural sin, the reign of God, stewardship, globalization, and solidarity. It includes handouts, worksheets, discussion questions and prayer suggestions.

A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Ruby K. Payne. Highlands: aha! Process, Inc., 2001. (800) 424-9484.

This resource teaches the hidden rules of economic class and spreads the message that, despite the obstacles poverty can create in all types of interaction, there are specific strategies for overcoming them.

Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success. Tom Ulrich. Notre Dame: Ave Marie Press, 2001.

This book offers practical assistance for parish communities to give witness to the social teaching of the church. It contains strategies for organizing meetings, assessing parish resources, building relationships with pastors and parish councils, and avoiding burnout.

Catholic Updates produced by St. Anthony Messenger Press- 1-800-488-0488: Many updates contain a social justice theme. Examples follow:

*Economic Justice for All: The U.S. Bishop's pastoral letter "Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy"
How Should We Think About the Poor?
100 Years of Catholic Social Teaching
The Works of Mercy: Jesus' Plan for Social Change*

8 Spiritual Heroes. Brennan R. Hill. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1989.

This book highlights eight modern spiritual heroes and their search for God. Included are Mohandas Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Oscar Romero, Edith Stein, Daniel Berrigan, and Mother Teresa.

How Much is Enough? Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture. Arthur Simon. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

Possessions may capture the heart, but they don't really nourish the soul. Simon guides the reader to fill his or her heart with something better than cash.

How the Make the World a Better Place: 116 Ways You Can Make a Difference. Jeffrey Hollender, and Linda Catling. New York: W.H. Norton & Company, 1995.

Whether you are interested in protecting the environment, helping the homeless, or making your community a safer place to live, you'll find the means to get started in this book. Each chapter alerts you to problems requiring attention, explains the issues and what has to be done about them, tells you what you can do to help, and lists the addresses and telephone numbers of organizations that you can contact.

Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes. Robert McAfee Brown. London: Westminster John Knox Press, 1984.

What would it be like to live in a church that has taken a "preferential option for the poor"? This books shows the first world reader how to access scripture from the vantage point of the poor.

We Can All Get Along: 50 Steps You can Take to Help End Racism. Clyde W. Ford. New York: Dell Publishing, 1994.

This book shows how, individually or with others, you can help to end racism in the world. Learn about topics such as nonracist language, toys and reading material that reinforce positive images of all ethnic groups and community organizing.

Prayer Resources:

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, United States Catholic Conference. Call 1-800-235-8722.

***A Justice Prayer Book**

Novena for Peace and Justice

***Scripture Guide**

***Way of the Cross Toward Justice and Peace**

A Scriptural Rosary for Justice and Peace

The Fire of Peace: Mary Lou Kownacki, ed. Pax Christi USA, (841) 453-4955.

Our Prayers Rise Like Incense. Cindy Pile, ed. Pax Christi USA, (841) 453-4955.

Promote Alternative Gifts:

Alternative Gifts International

(800) 842-2243

www.altgifts.org

Gifts help to empower people in crisis and protect our endangered planet. Presents to honor your family and friends that also build peace in our global village.

Work of Human Hands

Contact: Catholic Relief Services/Work of Human Hands

209 W. Fayette Street

Baltimore, MD 21201-3158

(800) 222-0025

www.catholicrelief.org

Through the Work of Human Hands program, Catholic Relief Services and SERRV International reach out to groups of low-income people around the world that are part of community-based cooperatives and non-profit organizations. These women and men create traditional, high-quality, handcrafted products for the Work of Human Hands catalog. Work of Human Hands pays the groups in advance and at a fair price for their products, providing the artisans the chance to pull their families out of poverty's strong hold.

Special Dates to Remember and Celebrate:

Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, September 27

Feast of St. Francis, October 4 - St. Francis is the Patron Saint of Ecology

World Food Day, October 16 - World Food Day was created by the member nations of U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Now observed in more than 40 countries, the day's purpose is to focus attention on all food and farm problems, and to get the world more directly involved in the search for solutions.

Contact: Coordinator

U.S. Committee for World Food Day

1001 22nd Street, NW

Washington, DC 20434

(202) 653-2404

National Migration Week- begins each year on Epiphany Sunday

Contact: USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services

3211 4th Street NE

Washington, DC 20017

E-mail: nmw@uscbb.org

Web: www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw.htm

Ecumenical Sunday, Celebrated on the Second Sunday after Epiphany (Beginning the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

Martin Luther King Day, Each Year on the third Monday of January