



Toolkit for Small Faith Sharing Groups

The Catholic Campus Ministry Association's Member Services and Formation & Education Committees are pleased to bring you a toolkit to assist in the planning and execution of Small Faith Sharing Groups. The toolkit will provide useful information and suggested steps to planning gatherings, resources to use during small group sharing and more! Please contact the CCMA National Office at info@ccmanet.org if you have any resources, articles or best practices to share. Thank you!

Best Practices Shared by CCMA Member Campus Ministers for Small Faith Sharing Groups

Campus Minister: Fr. Carl Schlichte, scnccampusminister@gmail.com

Institution: St. Catherine of Siena Newman Center (Utah)

Resource: Evangelical Catholic's Signs and Wonders and Connection to Christ

Comments: "These are great resources to use with people from various levels of faith formation; my undergraduates thought it was simple and my graduate students thought it had incredible depth."

Campus Minister: Greg Ramzinski, gramzinski@gmail.com

Institution: St. Elizabeth Catholic Student Center at Texas Tech University

Resource: USCCB's Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future; book studies from Henri Nouwen; guided studies of church documents; scripture study

Comments: "I start them off with the booklet from the USCCB on Empowered by the Spirit and get them familiar with that then let them choose the direction they wish to go in regards to focus on group discussion...It really varies from semester to semester and year to year on what they wish to focus on."

Campus Minister: Margretta daLomba Dobbs, mdobbs1@cbu.edu

Institution: Christian Brothers University

Resource: Evangelical Catholic; Living Faith reflection on upcoming Sunday scripture

Comments: "I scripted the first reflection for the group starting with the opening prayer. The students and I named the weekly meeting, "W'sup" (for "What's for discussion and supper?"). Pairing the reflection with a simple meal I prepared, the students came immediately after their evening classes and has grown from three or four students to about 15 weekly."

Campus Minister: Fr. Simon-Felix, frsimon@hoosiercatholic.org

Institution: St. Paul Catholic Newman Center at Indiana University

Resource: Evangelical Catholic

Comments: Contact me to hear about how St. Paul's conducts it's Small Faith Sharing Groups.

Campus Minister: Megan Fraino, frainom@stjohns.edu

Institution: St. John's University (New York)

Comments: We have two small male and female faith sharing groups that have been going for a few years now.

Campus Minister: Mike Bennett, mbennett3@udayton.edu

Institution: University of Dayton

Resource: Varies

Comments: "My method is a grassroots approach of letting groups establish a sense of community within themselves and then decide how they want to focus themselves and their sharing - whether that be through scripture study, looking at another resource, doing activities together, asking thought provoking questions, etc. I don't have a rubric I give them to follow; leaders guide their groups and meet their needs and desires. This keeps the groups fresh and from becoming entrenched into one approach. I am in very close contact with the student leaders of these groups to make sure that their discussion of faith-based topics increases as their time together continues. This contact comes in bi-weekly meetings I have with all the leaders that are always focused on what the group is doing and how I may assist them. In that I help encourage the leaders to listen and watch for key phrases or signs of people's interests."

Campus Minister: Mary Deely, m-deeley@u.northwestern.edu

Institution: Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University

Resource: CampusRENEW; Finding My Voice, Making Sense of God, the Called to Holiness: Spirituality for Catholic Women Series

Comments: "We have one Undergrad group and one Graduate Student group [using CampusRENEW]. We have a monthly "Artists of Faith" group (Art, Theater, Music students) and they draw from a variety of sources. Last year we started a "Book Club" with a group of females interested in reading my book (Finding My Voice) and we continued this fall with Elizabeth Dreyer's book (Making Sense of God) from the same series."

Other Resources

Thomas Merton, [Bridges to Contemplative Living Series](#), leader guides and participant booklet

[LXG: League of Extraordinary Gentlemen](#) at University of Portland

[Diocese of Little Rock Scripture Study](#)

Michael J. Hines, [Doing the Truth in Love: Conversations About God, Relationships and Service](#)

Links to Small Faith Group Sharing Organizations and Resources

[Caminos](#)

University Christian Life Communities (CLC)

[CampusRENEW](#)

Small faith sharing community building and resources

ESTEEM

Developing future Church leaders

Evangelical Catholic

Assisting campus ministry leaders to develop more fruitful ministries

FOCUS

Fellowship of Catholic University Students

JustFaith Ministries

Semester-long process of small Christian community in order to practice Gospel-based living

Saint Paul's Outreach

Program for creating evangelistic communities on campus

USCCB

Resources for small group study of church documents, Catholic Social Teaching, faithful citizenship, poverty, fair trade, etc.

Videos and Webinars

Small Faith Sharing Groups on Campus: Encountering the Mystery in Conversation

Small Faith Sharing Groups: Raising the Bar and Going Deeper

Empowered Campus Ministry Building Transformative Faith Communities

The inaugural EmpoweredCampusMinistry.org webinar on forming the faith community. Hear from student leaders and campus ministers across the country who are developing outreach initiatives and community building projects. Join us to gather good ideas, share strategies, and support each other on the path to stronger faith communities. If you participated in CMLI, the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute, be sure to register and reconnect with friends; however, this session is open to all campus ministers, student leaders, campus ministry staffs, and volunteers. This program is sponsored by the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education and the Catholic Apostolate Center.