

CHRIST THE KING COMMUNICATOR

June 2014

FROM THE EDITOR:

Hello all, I've been away for a while. Some of you may have been wondering when an issue of the communicator would surface again and in all likelihood, some not so much. Well it's back and we are looking forward to being more regular in our publication as well as timely in our topics. To that end I shall be handing the reins to a new editor, Rick Houle, who has far more bonafide than I when it comes to being a journalist so please treat him well and give him your utmost attention and feedback.

Sincerely, Steve

SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITY (SCC)

Recently the Communicator sat down with Beth Thompson to learn more about the Small Church Communities formed within the CTK Parish. Beth has been a key player and has worked tirelessly to make these groups a viable and successful part of the Christ The King Catholic Community. She provides us with valuable insight on exactly what these groups are, and how they enhance the spiritual well-being of our Parishioners. Here's what she had to say...

Q: *Beth, can you give us general senses of what Small Church Communities (SCC) are?*

A: Yes, these communities are a way of returning to the roots of the faith as small groups forming and in a very personal setting being the church; a way of being community and binding parishioners together as one by celebrating both our similarities and differences while accepting each other as they are during this journey of faith. Group

focus is centered on the word of God as embraced within the rhythms of the Liturgical Year with an emphasis on Christ's mission in the church, our world and our lives.

Q: *How is the program structured?*

A: SCC has a core team of individuals that are representative of the ages and various cultures of our parish community. This team is responsible for the following:

- The common prayer and spirituality themes to be discussed within each group
- Support and training for each group facilitator(s)
- Recruiting future core team members and group members too as well as assisting in the formation and organizing of individual SCC groups
- Communication with and between groups
- Organizing the semi-annual large group gathering to bring the individual groups together to celebrate their successes, exchange ideas and come to know more members of our parish community.

Q: *How are the groups formed?*

A: Parishioners express an interest in joining a group and the core team can either assign them to an existing group depending on their preference for day of the week and time of day or seek to establish a whole new group depending on availability and group size. Ideally the groups are diverse in both age and ethnicity. Currently, there are 8 to 9 active SCC groups in the parish.

Q: *When and where do the groups meet?*

A: Groups meet either weekly or bi-weekly in the home of a member with flexibility being a key element.

Q: *Is there a format for these meetings?*

A: Every meeting of the group ideally begins their session with of the scripture readings from the upcoming Sunday and then they reflect on a question provided in the Sunday Bulletin by Father Ray. The goal is to remain centered in the Word in all that we do as a Christian community while coming to individuals of the community better.

Q: *What is the expectation?*

A: Strengthened and enlightened by the Scriptures, individuals will become more willing and enthusiastic about committing themselves more fully to the ministries and needs within the CTK community and in so doing create a welcoming and vibrant parish.

Q: *What is required of the SCC group members?*

A: The following are the minimum expectations of all group members:

- Active listening, in other words absorb what is said and be prepared to share
- No interruptions, allow a person to speak fully and completely
- No commenting on a person's sharing, avoid discouraging speaking from the heart or being judgmental
- No "trying to fix" a person's problems or emotional state, just being there as a sympathetic ear is the important thing
- Feelings are feelings and neither right or wrong
- Respect a person's boundaries
- It is OK if a person chooses NOT to share on occasion
- No sharing a second time on a question or topic until each person has had an opportunity to share

- Periods of silence can be healthy and good, no NEED to fill the air with small talk etc.

- No discussion outside the SCC group gathering regarding ANYTHING shared

Q: *How can interested parishioners contact the SCC?*

A: The assigned contact and organizational couple for Small Church Community at Christ the King Is:

Chris and Sharon Sellman

Home phone: (702) 257-2511

Cell phone: (702) 378-5622

Email: sellmanc@cox.net

They will be happy to assist you or address any questions you may have.

Thank you Beth. In future issues of the Communicator we hope to report on the individual experiences of the various SCC groups and how it has helped to improve and shape the CTK parish community.



The individual's act of faith finds its place within a community, within the common "we" of the people who, in faith, are like a single person — "my first-born son", as God would describe all of Israel (cf. Ex 4:22). Here mediation is not an obstacle, but an opening: through our encounter with others, our gaze rises to a truth greater than ourselves.

Pope Francis 6/29/13