

The Mustard Seed The Mustard Seed

January, 2010

Grace and peace be yours,

Those of you with a long memory may recall “The Mustard Seed”, a newsletter distributed to members of our Small Christian Community members in hard copy format by way of the pastoral facilitator or contact person from each group. Nineteen years ago when I joined the staff at St. Hilary, that “Mustard Seed” was in place. Over time that hard copy format became arduous and regular meetings with facilitators/contact persons became problematic. And so, “The Mustard Seed” slowly faded away.

New Year’s resolutions take many forms. This is one of them.

Now that so many of our SCC contacts are email accessible, and I have figured out how to work this computer-thingy, I plan to follow up on the wise suggestion of Jim Klejka who said to me maybe ten years ago, “You know you could do this electronically.”

My plan will be to send an electronic issue to each SCC by way of their contact person and trust that their updated email addresses of their members will allow them to forward the issue to each SCC participant.

Why have a newsletter? Let me offer a couple of answers.

In nineteen years I have seen groups form and change membership, try out resource materials, experiment with outreach projects, all unaware that other groups have, likewise, formed, tried and experimented. Sharing ideas, best practices, reviews of resources seems to me to be valuable for all. Even more importantly, I believe that a newsletter brings into consciousness an awareness that your eight to ten people are part of a network... which is part of a parish... which is part of the church. And that faith-sharing is an important part of adult spiritual growth for a great many people.

I hope this effort will be worthwhile for each of you and that the ideas and news contained in each issue will be helpful. I’d appreciate your feedback at pschnee@sthilarychurch.org .

Love,

Pat Schnee

[Announcing...the Birth of a new SCC in the St. Hilary Parish SCC network!](#)

In early December a new SCC met for the first time and made the decisions that will govern the early stage of their life together.

Four couples: Sarah and Zach Schadek, Jake and Gina Poblete, Kim and Marcia Powers, Tammy and Rob Whitehouse (in absentia), agreed to meet monthly on the second Saturday of each month. Sarah agreed to be contact person for this group which will be the first SCC at the parish to use a resource from the Spirituality for Adult Christians series by the Center for Learning. The booklet they chose was "The Meaning of Faith", authored by Diana Culbertson, OP. Keep this new SCC in your prayers as they begin their new life together.

Outreach Ideas

Some of our SCC's take the opportunity Christmas affords to reach out beyond their own small group and minister to others. Some groups have "adopted" an area social service agency that serves homeless or hungry folks in our community. Some SCC's involve their children in outreach to a nursing home where the voices of young children singing carols is particularly welcome. Did your SCC reach out this Christmas season? How? Send your news to pschnee@sthilarychurch.org and we

will share your ideas with the network.



Other Ways to Grow

In late November and December this past year Fr. Joe Mamich of Holy Family Parish in Stow offered a four part series based on The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen. Since this program offered a place for reading, reflection and sharing, a typical small group way of growing in faith, one of our SCC's used that opportunity to grow together. The Wednesday evening group attended en masse. Carol Simpson, contact person for the group, even helped with the evening's hospitality. Your SCC might consider attending parish events together, especially adult education presentations that include faith sharing.

For Small Group Sharing

What was the most important experience of this past year for you? Why?