

“WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED”

AN INVITATION TO JOIN A SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUP

?????.....Just what is a “small faith sharing group/small church community?” Why would I want to become a member?

.....The early church was a church of small communities. Names of Peter, Barnabas, Paul and many others from the Holy Scriptures are often mentioned as they shared the events of our Lord and his invitation for all to come to him. People like you and me went from these gatherings into their homes and in ‘small faith sharing groups,’ retold the Lord’s story of truth and through these gatherings, spread the good news all over the world.

Our namesake Blessed Pope John XXIII’s Vatican II fueled the growth of small Christian Communities by encouraging our involvement, while John Paul II saw them as “cause for great hope for the life of the Church”. Small church groups here at John 23rd are offered as part of adult faith formation opportunities. They are a hallmark of the culture of our parish. Presently, there are approximately twenty-five different groups, some that have been meeting for over two decades and some have started recently.

These small communities are models of our hospitality in which we gather to **pray together, continue our learning from Scripture, tradition, and from each other, connect faith with our daily life, and put our faith into action.** Some of us join to rediscover our faith, some to deepen our faith, some to have a sense of community, some to more deeply experience people of God/church. **If you are new to J23rd, what a way to get acquainted with fellow parishioners!!** You will know immediately that you are welcome, accepted, and in a structured experience where you can chose how much you want to share and are free and encouraged to explore your own faith.

??? Where and when do the groups meet? How long is my commitment if I join?

Many groups meet in homes, rotating from one member’s home to the next. Some have agreed to meet in one location only. There are groups that meet here at J23rd. How frequently the group meets differs from group to group; some meet only during Advent or Lent, while others meet year round on a biweekly or monthly basis. A few groups meet during the day, others in the evening. The number of individuals in a group usually is between 6-12. New groups form, and existing groups welcome new members when possible. While attendance at meetings is a priority, life’s realities will dictate attendance.

A SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUP BUILDS COMMUNITY HERE AT BLESSED J23RD. MEMBERS EXPERIENCE A SENSE OF “BELONGING”!!!

Interested??? Contact: Coordinators Steve Henry steveh291@comcast.net (970) 420-5317
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