

‘GROWING’ THE NUMBER OF SMALL GROUPS THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. Assessing ‘health’ of existing groups
 - Taking the time to support existing groups
 - Taking time to made any ‘adjustments’ needed
 - Helping your facilitators and hosts to take the ‘next step’: ‘9&5’
2. Identifying natural ways your parish will ‘populate’ new small groups
 - Retreats
 - Other ministries
 - Major Life Moments
 - New Parishioner Orientation
3. Identifying new group leaders
 - How many? (consider at least 1-2 new leaders / 8 groups)
 - Consistent and steady growth vs. fast growth
4. The role of a parish retreat
 - Can begin to build relationships (‘connect’)
 - Favorable environment for ‘encounter’
 - Remember: accompaniment through the *rest* of the Formation Life Cycle
 - Additional opportunities: Mission Trips, Family Camp, etc
5. Larger Communal Gatherings
 - Periodically bringing everyone together
 - Sharing testimonies as a ‘norm’ / something that is ‘modeled’
6. Shifting Culture in parish to ‘Community of Communities’
 - On-going communication of the VISION
 - Discerning when its time for parish-wide communications
 - Helping your Small Group Leaders and Mentors ‘know what and how to say it’