



Catholic  
Parishes  
OF ARLINGTON

# Small Christian Communities

HOUSEHOLD CHURCH

# Opening Prayer

- Lord Jesus Christ, who, being made subject to Mary and Joseph, did consecrate domestic life by Your ineffable virtues; grant that we, with the assistance of Mary and Joseph, may be taught by the example of Your Holy Family and may attain to its everlasting fellowship. Who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.



# Introductions

- Names
- Why are you interested in Household Church?
- Activities your household does for fun.



# What is a SCC?

- It was Jesus who invited his disciples into community, where they were formed in His way of discipleship. After His death and resurrection, Christians prayed together and broke bread as they were instructed by the Lord, and in doing so, shared their lives and sustenance. They supported one another by living the values that Jesus taught them. This was the early communitarianism character of the early Church.
- It is in ongoing Small Christian Communities that people are especially helped to know and to relate to one another, reflect on their life of faith in the company of others, and strive to apply the Gospel to daily life.
- Five essential signs of communal life are emphasized within the Small Christian Community:
  - *Sharing* freely about God and about life's experiences, and reflecting on these under the light of Scripture and tradition
  - *Learning* continually about Scripture, tradition, Church Doctrine, and spirituality.
  - *Mutual support* within the Small Christian Community provides the needed encouragement of others who share in their belief in God.
  - *Prayer* life, both personal and communal, is shared within the Small Christian Community setting.
  - *Mission* oriented towards living out the values of Christ, which are discussed within the Small Christian Community setting.
  - Small Christian Communities are involved in the study of Scripture, prayer, and the Sunday Gospels. Groups often choose to participate in additional seasonal topics, especially during Advent and Lent.

# Why focus on the domestic church?

- The home is the first place of Evangelization
- The parish is a family made up of families
- Parents are the primary educators of children and the pastors are their collaborators



# How?

- Disciplines:
  - The members will commit to praying the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet once a week as a household.
  - Each household will gather for a meal at least twice a week.
  - The SCC will meet monthly to share a meal and pray a Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet together.
  - The SCC will participate in a monthly formation meeting where a teaching will be shared (this could be a talk from the Pastor or other clergy, a course of study on Formed/Word on Fire or any other program that is approved by the Pastor).
  - The SCC will join each other for Mass once a month, virtually or in person when available.
  - The members will commit to confession every 4 to 6 weeks, when it becomes available.
  - The members are encouraged to attend daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration either as individuals or as a household each week, virtually and in person when available.
  - The SCC will be invited to participate in the good works of the Catholic Collaborative of Arlington and broaden the Corporal Works of Mercy in the community of Arlington and beyond.
- Apostolates:
  - A specific “caritas” that a SCC chooses for itself
- Name and Patron Saint:
  - The Holy Family of Nazareth
  - Pope St. John Paul II



# Next Steps

- Period of discernment
  - Start living the disciplines
  - Fr. Marc to give Weekly Talks on Vocation/Call to Holiness
  - Meet as groups as assigned



# Future SCC

- **Seasonal Groups** - groups of 8-12 people who meet seasonally. The schedule is six weeks and new groups are formed prior to Lent (early Spring) and prior to Advent (early Fall).
- **Ministerial Communities** - groups of 5-12 people who meet to share faith and support each other in their chosen ministry (e.g. Pastoral Council, Faith Formation Community, Liturgical Ministries, etc.). These communities typically stay together for 2-3 years, depending on the ministry commitment.
- **Exodus 90 (For Men)**
- **Discipleship Quads (Franciscan University)**



# Questions?

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# Resources

- [http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_exh\\_19811122\\_familiaris-consortio.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html)



# Closing Prayer

- One “Our Father...”
- One “Hail Mary...”
- One “Glory be ...”

