

Our Greatest Need – Formation of Adults

“The catechetical formation of adults is essential for the Church to carry out the commission given the Apostles by Christ.... This formation needs to be addressed to adults at different stages in the development of their faith” through small groups. (From the *National Directory for Catechesis*)

Forming Souls through Small Groups: training for Facilitators

Small groups are a unique and essential avenue for parishioners to learn more about Christ’s teaching, grow in fellowship with one another and build community, prepare to participate in the Eucharistic celebration, and pray together.

It is not uncommon for small groups to lose focus and direction and become merely a place for small talk and storytelling. Although there is often a place for small talk and storytelling within the context of small groups, it is important to recognize that this is not their purpose.

At *Franciscan at Home* online learning system, the workshop on “Forming Souls through Small Groups” provides the necessary training for facilitators, including a greater understanding of such aspects as:

- the stages of conversion
- the tendencies of each person in the context of group discussion in order to provide balance in helping the group run smoothly

and the confidence to incorporate:

- Mother Church’s vision of fostering deeper conversion to Jesus Christ and growing in faith
- the essential components of small groups: study, fellowship, preparation to receive Jesus in Holy Communion at Mass and prayer, with the outgrowth of service and evangelization
- practical advice to help a small group thrive.

The workshop includes 1 hour of video divided into 10-minute segments followed by practical discussion questions pertinent to the content. ***This workshop, consisting of 3, 1 ½ hour sessions, needs to be completed with a group, ranging from 3 to 10 people.

Simple instructions to register for *Franciscan at Home* for FREE:

- 1) Visit franciscanathome.com/diocese-la-crosse and scroll to the bottom of the page.
- 2) On the right, click the middle blue button: “My parish or school is already registered, and I would like to set up my individual **free** account...”
- 3) Click “Create an Account.” Complete the information and click Save. Select the Diocese of La Crosse from a drop-down menu, and then your Institution = your parish | school, listed first by city and name. Finally, click on the “**Sign Up**” button; you will have a **Dashboard**. Scroll down to “**Franciscan Tracks**” under “**Start Learning**” on the left and select the “**the Catechist Track**” or “**The Parish Catechetical Leader Track**” or **Catechumenal Track (RCIA)** and then click on “**Forming Souls through Small Groups**.” Note: A Track is a collection of workshops.

When seeking to access again, put in franciscanathome.com/diocese-la-crosse and then click on “Log In” in the upper right-hand corner, and then “Log In” again under your password. You will be taken to your Dashboard. Scroll down to the “**Franciscan Tracks**,” then click on the same track and workshop.

Small Group Study Programs on the Eucharist

- **A Biblical Walk through The Mass** with Edward Siri (5 sessions)

This series explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience in Mass and explains their profound significance. Multiple sets of DVDs available from the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization for free rental or for purchase of Leader's Guide, Participant Booklet and book from Ascension Press

- **Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist** by the Augustine Institute (4 sessions)

Four-part series with leader and participant workbook. Presence explores the radical mystery of God's love expressed in the Eucharist and shows how in this Sacrament God is really present to help and strengthen us at every step of life's journey. By diving into the story of God's love for His people in Scripture and the Church's teaching on this Sacrament, Presence invites each one of us into a deeper, more intimate union with God. One set of DVDs available for free rental from the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization or leader and participant workbooks and DVDs available for purchase from the Augustine Institute.

- **Lectio Eucharist** with Dr. Brant Pitre (10 sessions)

This series focuses on the Biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. One set of DVDs is available for free rental from the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization and also available on FORMED. Leader and participant workbook and DVDs available from Catholic Market.

- **The Mass** with Bishop Robert Barron (7 sessions)

Walk through the Holy Mass with Bishop Barron and be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. See how the Mass brings us out of the fallen world and into the Heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from His people, the Church, and most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. The Mass will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian life. One set of DVDs available for free rental from the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization or leader and participant workbook and DVDs available from Word on Fire.

- **Eucharist** with Bishop Robert Barron (5 sessions)

Experience for yourself the profound mystery of the Eucharist as Sacred Meal, Sacrifice and Real Presence. These elements unite the Church across time and unite us to our fellow Catholics in every sacred liturgy. One set of DVD's for free rental available from the Office for Cat. & Evang. or leader and participant workbook along with DVDs available for purchase from Word on Fire.

- **Altaration** with Mark Hart, Jackie Angel, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Chris Stefanick etc. (5 lessons)

Altaration addresses getting Catholic teens and parents to appreciate the awesome beauty and mystery of the Mass...and to actually look forward to attending and participating. Available from Ascension Pres. The goal of Altaration is not to fill heads with information but to pierce hearts with transformation.