

ARISE Parish Team Meeting One: Becoming a Community

Purpose

- to provide an opportunity through prayer and faith sharing for the *ARISE* parish members to grow together as a community and to understand their responsibilities more fully
- to become acquainted with the *ARISE Together in Christ* process

Materials needed

- *ARISE* trifold (download from RENEW International website)
- copy of the *ARISE* Prayer (Handout 29)
- Bible or *Lectionary* for the Sunday gospel reading
- copy of *PRAYERTIME*
- *ARISE* Season One CD and CD player
- copy of the *ARISE Pastoral Services* brochure (distributed at the *ARISE* information session)

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader Let us spend a few moments in quiet,
becoming more aware of God's presence ...
... God's presence in each one of us,
but especially in this community,
gathered in Jesus' name.

Song *Play or sing an appropriate song such as*
"Gather Your People," Bob Hurd (OCP) or
"Gather Us In," Marty Haugen (GIA) (*ARISE CD 1, Track 1*)

All **Gracious God, Loving Father,
you call us to be your people,
a community whose love is rooted in the heart of Jesus
and whose boundaries encompass all peoples, all creation.**

**Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us;
strengthen us and guide us
as we work for spiritual renewal within our parish.
Grace our efforts so they become a share
in your work of transforming our world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Introductions (10 minutes)

Beginning with the team coordinator, participants should introduce themselves (if there are new members) and express the hopes they have for *ARISE* in the parish.

Faith Sharing (15 minutes)

Faith sharing, or telling our faith stories, is being aware of or recalling times, life events, words, or moments of grace when God touched our lives, challenged us, or spoke to us.

- **Scripture**
Proclaim the Gospel for the coming Sunday.
- **Reflection**
You could
 - use the reflection and one of the faith-sharing questions from *PRAYER TIME* for the appropriate Sunday.
 - Or you could
 - allow time for reflection and ask:
“What word, phrase, or image from the scripture reading touched my heart or spoke to my life?”

Overview of the ARISE Process (35 minutes)

- The leader of the meeting shares briefly the reasons why the *ARISE Together in Christ* process was chosen for the diocese. Distribute the *ARISE* Pastoral Services brochure and allow time for members to read it.
- Show a copy of the Season One Faith-Sharing Book: *Encountering Christ Today*. Initiate a brief discussion of the process as it relates to your parish and its individual parishioners.
 - What hopes do we have for the way in which small groups of parishioners meeting weekly, praying, and sharing faith could change our parish?
 - How might our Sunday Mass be different?
 - How might our neighborhood be affected by our participation in *ARISE*?

Next Steps (2 minutes)

- Plan to participate in the Launching *ARISE* Workshop
- Set a date to meet after the launching workshop

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Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

The leader should offer a brief prayer of quiet thanksgiving. Then:

Leader Let us pray for God's help and guidance.

Leader For our Church and world leaders
that they may act with wisdom and prudence,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader For our (arch)diocese,
that trust might be restored where it has been broken,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader For our parish, as we prepare for **ARISE**,
that it may be open in the Spirit
to this opportunity for spiritual growth and to deeper faith,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader For our **ARISE** Parish Team
that we may catch glimpses of God
as we pray and work together,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader. For the success of the **ARISE** process,
that it will deepen participants' faith
and encourage them to express their faith
through concrete actions of love and justice,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pause and invite others to offer intentions.

Leader Let us pray together the **ARISE** Prayer.

