

# ARISE Parish Team Meeting Six: Forming the Small Communities

## **Purpose**

- to provide an opportunity through prayer and faith sharing for the *ARISE* parish team members to grow together as a community
- to form the small communities and assign a leader for each

## **Materials needed**

- copy of the *ARISE* Prayer (Handout 29)
- Bible or *Lectionary* for the Sunday gospel reading
- copy of *PRAYERTIME*
- *ARISE* Seasons Four CD and CD player
- Handout 14, “Organizing Participants into Small Communities”  
Handout 14 includes a guide to using an Excel spreadsheet (available for download from [www.renewintl.org/ARISEservices](http://www.renewintl.org/ARISEservices)) to help the sorting of people into appropriate small communities. If you are going to use a spreadsheet, make sure you have access to a computer for this part of the meeting.
- Handout 15, “Welcoming Small-Community Leaders”
- Handout 16, “Commissioning Ceremony for Small-Community Leaders”

## **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*  
“We Are the Church,” Chris Walker and Paul Freeburg, D.C.  
(OCP)(ARISE CD 4, Track 5)

*Leader* Let us pray together

**All**            **Gracious God,**  
**you have made us and given us all that we have.**  
**Help us support one another**  
**in this ministry you have entrusted to us.**  
**Help us understand that this is your work**  
**and you will be with us every step of the way.**  
**This we ask in the name of your son Jesus Christ**  
**and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Evaluation of Progress Since the Previous Meeting** (10 minutes)

Invite each person to share the progress made thus far in selecting small-community leaders

### **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 *PRAYERTIME* 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?”

### **Organizing the Small Communities** (40 minutes)

- Familiarize yourselves with the contents of Handout 14, “Organizing Participants into Small Communities.”
- Follow the steps that this handout proposes. The reverse side of this Handout explains how to use an Excel-based spreadsheet version. This electronic version is particularly useful if you have a large parish, many participants, and need to manipulate a large amount of data. The spreadsheet is available for download in the *ARISE* Resource Library from [www.renewintl.org/ARISEservices](http://www.renewintl.org/ARISEservices). Remember to login as a member.

### **Break** (10 minutes)

### **Communication and Materials** (25 minutes)

- **Either** plan for the distribution of lists of small-community members and material for faith-sharing  
**or** meet with the leaders sometime after the leader formation workshop  
See Handout 15, “Welcoming Small-Community Leaders”

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- Plan for the public commissioning of small-community leaders. We strongly recommend that this commissioning take place during the Sunday eucharistic liturgy, after the homily.

See Handout 16, “Commissioning Ceremony for Small-Community Leaders.”

### **Next Steps** (2 minutes)

- Commit to ongoing parish team meetings in order to complete your preparation for each season.
- At the end of each season meet with your small-community leaders to evaluate the experience. (RENEW will provide the evaluation instrument to be used.)

### **Closing Prayer** (5 minutes)

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

*Leader* Let us pray for God’s help and guidance.

*Leader* For small communities throughout the world,  
that they be truly missionary  
in their outreach to the poor and needy,  
we pray to the Lord:

**All** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For our small communities  
that they may grow together in their love for God and others,  
we pray to the Lord:

**All** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For our **ARISE** Parish Team  
that we may listen to the Spirit in our decision making,  
we pray to the Lord:

**All** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the small-community leaders,  
that they will be guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit  
as they facilitate spiritual sharing,  
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.

