

Subject: Parish Update: January 18, 2022

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:48:44 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

To: Cristina Folan



Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church



"Jesus Had a Small Group"

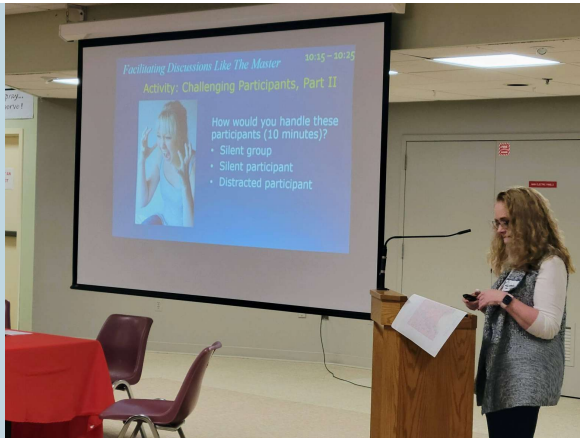




In journey of renewal, it has become even more evident how small group conversations are so valuable in welcoming people into friendship and community (belong), support them on a path of spiritual growth and learning (believe), and inspiring them to be sharers of the Good News (behave). Whether in Alpha, Cornerstone, Discipleship Groups, DivorceCare, Grieve with Hope, our renewed model of Faith Formation, Men's Group, etc., table/small group conversations are taking place daily and helping further the Kingdom of God.

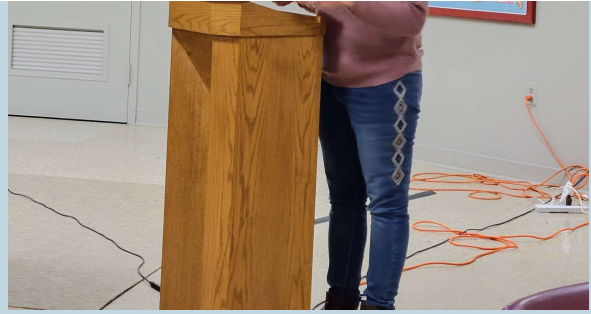
To that end, four parish leaders representing various ministries (***Dan Balogh, Beth Letizia, Patty Migliore-Torres, and Dennis Bloshuk***) developed and hosted "***Jesus Had a Small Group: Facilitating Small Group Conversations Like The Master***" this past Saturday morning. Forty-five participants joined in to learn more about how the Master handled conversations and how we, too, can become more fruitful as facilitators and sharers in small group conversations.





The morning experience included: shared insights on Jesus' approach and response to conversations; Jesus' calling and encouragement of those seemingly "unfit" for mission; inspiring witness talks by **Matt Cooney** and **Kathy Bogwald**; clever enactments of challenging situations that might arise in small group conversations; and the collaborative suggestions from the presenters and the event participants on best practices to handle such situations.





Click [HERE](#) to view more memories

from this event!

What participants had to say... Through an online survey administered following the event, 27 participants offered their feedback. Overall, 26 of the 27 respondents felt the event was "very engaging and rewarding," most of them giving high marks of either valuable or very valuable to all components of the experience.

Some comments offered on event aspects of particular impact:

- *I enjoyed the skits; they were funny yet relatable. I saw myself in some of the portrayals and will be more cognizant of my actions as I go forward.*
- *The witness speakers were very different yet very inspiring in their own way.*
- *The variety was wonderful! The role-playing was especially informative and sparked great and lively conversation both at small table discussions and in the big group discussion.*
- *Believe it or not, the video with the man driving the bus at the very end hit me. The whole event was great, but for me, this video made me feel like God is calling me. Thank you for inviting me.*

Some comments offered on what could have been more effective:

- *More time for discussion and sooner.*
- *I would not change anything. It was well run and extremely effective.*
- *The presenters should have adjusted the order of components. The video should have gone before Kathy's and Matt's testimonials. Also, the break towards the end should have occurred earlier. More time for Q&A would have been helpful, too. I wanted to hear about challenges other leaders had faced and how the panel would have resolved those challenges.*
- *Everything was perfect~inspiring and informative~and we had fun too!*

A few of the takeaways mentioned:

- *Listen, listen, listen.*
- *Leading a small group is less about teaching and controlling the conversation and more about creating the space for others to listen and be heard.*
- *Being a leader is a great way to increase your faith, and there is an abundance of helpful folks who will support and guide you!*
- *1. Establish ground rules... 2. Make peace with silence (8-second rule) 3. It's ok — and sometimes necessary— to interrupt... but let it pass until it's needed 4. Questions over answers 5. I gotta watch "Chosen"!*

- *I was on the fence about whether or not I needed to go, as I've facilitated many small groups in the past. However, I took away so much from this event! Thank you!*
- *I was skeptical about attending, but I'm glad I took the leap. It was probably the best leader training I have been to in a church environment.*

We are grateful for the leaders who hosted this event and all the participants who joined us and collaborated! All around, this event proved to be a great example of ***Investing in Our Faith, Investing in Our Future!***

First Reconciliations: Welcome Home!

by Elementary Faith Coordinator, Diane Byrne



Forty-eight children, accompanied by their families and faith leaders, are on a preparation journey towards their First Holy Communion. This past week, two out of three groups of children preparing received for the first time the Sacrament of Reconciliation (the last group will celebrate the sacrament this week). Offering a valuable witness, several parents and family members took the opportunity to go to Confession. The reconciliations began with a short prayer service, followed by individual confessions, and concluded with a simple craft activity for the children.



"I just wanted to drop you a note to tell you how well organized the First Reconciliation for the children receiving First Holy Communion. Evan enjoyed his first confession and wanted to come back next month to confess again. He had his confession with one of the visiting priests. He said he was nervous before confession, but the priest was "really good," listened, and gave him good advice and penance to do. He did his penance and was thrilled that we, his parents, also went for confession. After confession, Evan enjoyed the craft activity and loved the bookmark and cross given to him. We, too, were so happy to see how excited he was to confess his sins. Thanks once again for all that you do for the kids to make it so interesting for them."

Glenis and Nick

Please continue to keep our young children in your prayers, their families, and faith leaders, as they continue preparing to receive the most precious gift of our faith: Jesus in the Eucharist!

Paterson Diocese: March for Life 2022

Our Diocese is proud to host events this month where we can gather as a community to pray for the right to life, all life -- from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and every moment in between. We hope you can participate in these events and appreciate you spreading the word about them.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

Mass and March
10:00 am
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
209 US-206, Branchville





SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Mass and Holy Hour
9:00 am
St. Philip the Apostle Parish
797 Valley Road, Clifton



SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Mass and March
8:00 am
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
63 E Main Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866



DIOCESE
of
PATERSON

*"A great prayer for life is urgently needed,
a prayer which will rise up
throughout the world.
Through special initiatives
and in daily prayer,
may an impassioned plea rise to God,
the Creator and lover of life,
from every Christian community,
from every group and association,
from every family and
from the heart of every believer."*

Pope Saint John Paul II
Evangelium Vitae

In addition, a bus trip is being coordinated by St. Vincent Martyr in Madison and Holy Family Parish in Florham Park. There are seats available on the bus. There will be a Mass at 7 am Mass at Holy Family Church; the bus leaves at 7:45 am from Holy Family Church and returns by 10:15 pm. No charge for the bus due to the kind generosity of an SVM family. Contact: Julie McGurn at 973-408-9042 to reserve your seat(s).

Married Couples: Take the Oneness Journey!

marriage oneness



The hope of deep, soul-level harmony is why we get married in the first place. But oneness doesn't just happen. Couples and God make it happen. Regardless of how long you have been married, join us as we learn and discuss practical guidance in seven key areas of marriage:

- Communication
- Money
- Intimacy
- Family and Friends
- Conflict Resolution
- Spiritual Beliefs
- Roles and Responsibilities

**The 8-session series will be held
Fridays, February 18 - March 8,
2022, 7:00-9:30 pm in Room 201.
Onsite babysitting will be
available!**

**Oneness: Click
here to Register!**

Thank you for your support of Our Parish Mission!

All that takes place at ND and beyond through the works of our ministries is made possible through the generous giving of our parish community.



If you are not participating in **Regular Offertory Giving**, we invite you to support our mission. Click [HERE](#) to find out more and to sign up today.

UPCOMING

**This week's Mass
& Lamp Intentions**

**Parishioner
Announcements**

DRIVE-THRU DROP-OFF CLOTHING DRIVE

Saturday
January 22, 2022
9 - 11 am



Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church
75 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ

Back Parking Lot
www.ndcarmel.com

Important! Please bag any coat donations separately and label accordingly, as these will be delivered for distribution at the Food Pantry in Paterson.

MEN'S GROUP





Join us in faith and friendship!
We explore a different topic each month and offer an opportunity for sharing and discussion. Our next gathering is

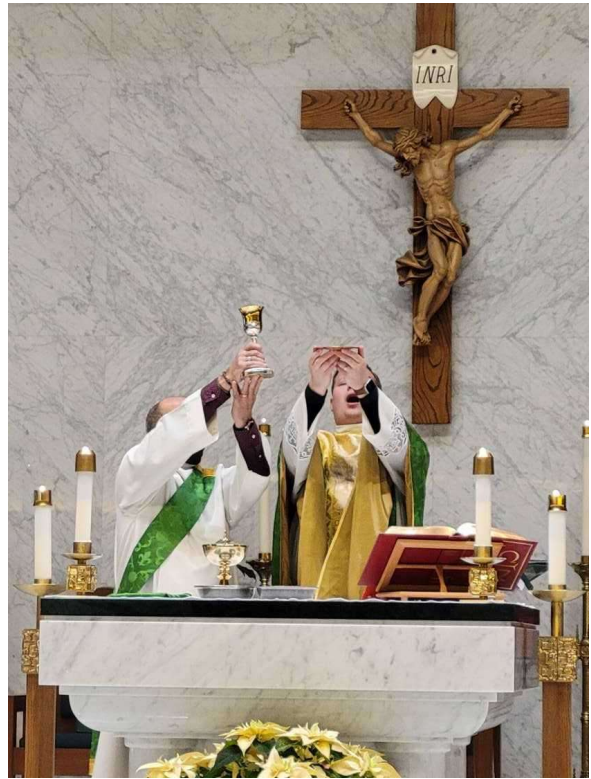
SATURDAY, JAN. 29th, 8:00-10:00 AM

Downstairs in the Resource Library

JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memories that tell our story...







Click [HERE](#) for more memories from our Family Mass.



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

[Reply](#)

Direct replies to this email can only be seen by admins. Click the blue Reply button above to leave a public comment.

Email me when people reply to this note

To ensure that these emails land in your inbox and do not go into spam, please add mail@flocknote.com to your email address book or safe senders list.



[my info](#) • [unsubscribe](#)

75 Ridgedale Avenue, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 • [ndcarmel.com](#)