

## **Small Christian Communities – Renew**

### **Coordinator Tom Fischer**

The Evangelization Commission, chaired by Father Joe Hardy, initiated a process to begin Small Christian Communities in the parishes in the London Diocese. Renew was a comprehensive vehicle to begin this process. The Commission understood that to bring Renew to the parishes in the Diocese required a person solely dedicated for this endeavor. Mr. Ron Cork was employed as Director of Renew.

Under the leadership of Ron, each Parish which adopted Renew, formed a team whose task it was to organize and oversee the Renew process for the two- and half-year process. The two and a half years were split into five seasons each made of five weeks each season – year one Lent and Advent, year two Lent and Advent, culminating with Lent in year three.

At Sacred Heart Renew groups were formed with six to ten people in each group. Many members of these groups were unknown to each other at the beginning, but over the two and a half years of meeting together, became good friends.

Each Parish in the Diocese purchased Renew materials. These materials were Scripture and prayer based, appropriate for each of the five seasons. Time was included for both personal and group reflection. There was also a section which challenged the participants to reach out into the wider community. Most groups also added a social component which was a similar model to the Early Christian Communities House Churches.

Not all of the Renew groups formed Small Christian Communities after Renew. Some of the participants were already members of Cursillo Small Groups and other groups.