

We are always in need of host homes and facilitators. To learn more about what this involves please check the following:

Hosting a Small Group

Are you interested in Hosting a Faith Sharing Group? Not everyone is called to the ministry of hospitality, but if you are comfortable having people in your home we need you!

Minimal preparations are required:

- Your home needs to have a room that will comfortably seat 6 to 8 people. This could be a dining room, living room, or family room. The seating can be a combination of your normal furniture plus dining chairs, desk chairs, or folding chairs.
- Your house does not need to be spotlessly clean. It is helpful that it be free from distractions.
- Some people are allergic or afraid of animals. If you have pets it is helpful to keep them in an area of your home (garage, bedroom, outdoors) that is separate from the group until you know everyone's situation.
- It is nice for you to greet each participant at the door when they arrive, show them where the meeting will take place, and where your bathroom facilities are located.
- Refreshments are not necessary. If you choose to provide refreshments, keep them simple. Your group may decide to rotate refreshments among willing members. Often groups choose to forgo refreshment.
- The weekly meetings are scheduled to be 90 minutes long. This provides about 10 minutes for welcoming (refreshments if you choose). The facilitator will generally arrive no more than 15 minutes early and they will insure that the meeting starts and ends on time.

Please pray for this important ministry. Without hosts and facilitators we would not be able to offer faith-sharing groups to our parish community.

Facilitating a Small Group

Are you interested in Facilitating a Faith Sharing Group? Important qualities for group facilitation are:

1. Time to prepare for each meeting
2. The ability to focus on others
3. Being an active listener
4. The ability to be positive and encouraging
5. The ability to ask "open-ended" questions

An effective facilitator

- Creates an atmosphere of openness that encourages sharing.
- Has the attitude of a servant (Matthew 20:27)
- Encourages others to talk
- Is an active listener
- Might have answers, but wants to hear what others think
- Is comfortable with silence - knowing that silence indicates that others are thinking.
- Measures success by how little talking he/she has to do and still keep the conversation on task.

The facilitator is not a teacher or a lecturer. The facilitator strives to set a tone of warmth and acceptance by being positive and encouraging to enhance honest sharing by all group members.

Facilitator training will be provided to those who feel called to lead a group. Please pray for this important ministry. Without facilitators and hosts we would not be able to offer faith-sharing groups to our parish community.

St Therese of Carmel
Street Retreat Program