



EASTER

THE NET WORKER

*The Newsletter of
St. Peter the Apostle Parish
River Edge, New Jersey*

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YOUTH GROUP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

by John "JF" Farrelly

One summer evening in 2007 a couple of friends, who all were part of the St. Peter's Youth Group throughout high school, got together to catch up and reminisce. The discussion started with the usual: "How's college going?" "Where are you working now?" "Have you seen what Facebook has done to their layout?"

Then, as the evening turned into night, conversation started drifting away from recent stories and towards anecdotes from the time spent at youth group. In high school, the friends spent almost every Sunday night going to meetings, went on trips for events such as World Youth Day, volunteered, and ran a yearly retreat called "Antioch."

It was during this conversation that someone asked "Why don't we still do this on a regular basis, like in high school?" After high school, the opportunities that a youth group provides diminish (whether those opportunities are to go on retreats, volunteer, or just to see friends on a regular basis), because many people leave town for college, and the community that's formed during high school spreads out.

And, while there are youth groups and CYOs for teenagers, and retreats like Cornerstone for older members of the church community, at the time there was not a defined group that appealed specifically to young adults.

But, while there are obstacles, no one was able to answer the question "why don't we still do this on a regular basis?" So, from that night, we decided to form the Youth Group Alumni Organization, to connect the young adults that graduated from youth group, but still want to continue to grow in their faith and remain part of a church community. As one of the members of the group described it, "we're a social group of people doing something good".

Since 2007, we've gotten members to volunteer at a soup kitchen, ran several fundraisers to donate money to charity, and kept the community close by going on a camping trip and holding regular meeting. We still have obstacles to overcome, such as figuring out the best way to work around a lot of the members' college schedules, but we're planning to organize many more volunteering opportunities, fundraisers, and events that bring the community closer together. Right now, for example, several members are working hard on getting together a church-wide talent show for this summer.

If you're a young adult looking for an experience like this, we invite you to join us!
Thanks everyone!



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Small Christian Communities (SCCs) and the SCC Core

By Carlo Rebosio

What's all this talk about "SCCs"? What do they do? Who are the people that are part of these groups? What is the SCC Core and what's the purpose of that group? Have you ever asked any of these questions, or is this all new to you? Either way, I hope to answer some of those questions for you.

An SCC is simply a regular gathering of people whose purpose is to meet in the name of Jesus, read and contemplate Scripture, and discover the oftentimes unseen ways in which our lives have been blessed. Many SCCs, but certainly not all, are born out of the Cornerstone weekend, bonded and propelled by the powerful experience of those 27 hours. Others are formed during Advent and Lent, as well as Renew, and the many parish ministries that have been formed here at St. Peter's. All of these groups continue meeting regularly in people's homes and here at the parish.

For those that are in an SCC today, I'm sure you'll agree that it gives us all the opportunity to continue to join our "day to day" life with our "spiritual" life and helps bring them together as one. For me personally, it has been, and continues to be, a great way to bring that spiritual clarity to my life and connects me closer to the St. Peter's community. These SCCs feed St. Peter's and at the same time St. Peter's feeds these smaller communities.

So what can you do? If you are part of an SCC today, keep meeting as you normally do but also join us for the Quarterly SCC meetings so we can learn what's working and what's not from your group and you can hear from the other SCCs throughout St. Peter's. It's a great learning and sharing opportunity but it only works if you are there.

Next, if you are not currently part of a group and want to be, please reach out to any one of us on the SCC Core team and we will help you to get a new group going or join you to an established one. If you were part of a group that has stopped meeting or your group just never got off the ground after Cornerstone, let us know, we have an outline and materials designed specifically for you called Re-Kindle the Flame and it was created to help small communities begin again. There are also seasonal groups that will be getting

together during Advent and Lent that you can join and may be a good way to get going with a new SCC.

So what is the SCC Core Team and what do they do? The SCC Core Team is simply a group of people from the parish that meet on a monthly basis to talk about ways of continuously building our SCC presence here at St. Peter's. We can be a resource to your SCC, and you to us. Whether you're a newly formed group, have been meeting for many years, used to meet but no longer do, or even if you've never been a part of an SCC, we are here to help. Finally, we have a resource library with lots of material that may be helpful for your meetings so please reach out to us and let us know what you need.

Please reach out to any one of us on the SCC Core and let us know what's on your mind or what you need to make your group meetings more meaningful. We welcome your input and assistance, and invite you to come to one of our meetings. Feel free to reach out to any one of us, our contact information is listed below.



Leadership:

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Roy Pressimone	201-262-9311

Core Community Member:

Denis Broderick	201-489-0697
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A Time To Talk

By Robert Frost

When a friend calls to me from the road
And slows his horse to a meaning walk
I don't stand still and look around
On all the hills I haven't hoed
And shout from where I am "What is it?"
No, not as there is time to talk.
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground
Blade end up and five feet tall
And plod: I go up to the stone wall
For a friendly visit.

decrying the new technology, or claiming that the old days were better. People always say the old days were better, no matter when those old days were. The old days were different days, that's all. Shaking your head and wishing for the past just makes you sound, well, old.

*He hears the call
of someone in need,
and he heeds it.*

But it is worth asking how we can define humanity and connection in these new days. Texting back and forth with a friend can be a great way to stay in touch and boost your spirits on a busy day. I personally could not live without email. In fact, we probably "talk" to each other now more than at any other time in human history, to the point where it gets kind of boring. Do I need to get a tweet telling me you just finished your lunch and the wings were really tangy?

I came across this poem a few weeks ago and was immediately attracted to it because it seems the exact opposite of our lives today. First of all, none of us is standing around hoeing a field. Secondly, none of us have time to talk. Yes, we have time to blog, we have time to Twitter, we have time to email, but we don't have time to talk. How many times have you sent an email to someone instead of picking up the phone because it's so much faster?

Talking is so old-fashioned. And time consuming. For one thing, you have to listen to the other person, which can really bog you down. If you're like me, you have your days scheduled out to the last 3 minutes, so taking time to chat with a neighbor when you're backing out of the driveway can make you late for your errand, which makes you late for a meeting, which makes you late to pick up your kids from school. Suddenly, stopping for a chat just isn't worth the stress.

Humans have a deep and ongoing need to connect, and actually, we are talking. We're just talking in a whole new way. We are texting like mad on our hand-helds, and we are posting ourselves all over Facebook and racking up new "friends." We certainly keep up on any all news of the world in an obsessive, up-to-the-minute kind of way. There is no sense in

So we are talking. We're talking all the time, but who is listening? In the poem, the man hoeing does not seek the conversation. It is the man walking by, who slows his horse and indicates a desire to talk. The hoeing man does not necessarily want to talk, but he realizes that to be a true neighbor, he must take the time to listen. He hears the call of someone in need, and he heeds it.



Listening can seem like a sacrifice. You have to be still, you have to pay attention, you have to think of something besides yourself and your own schedule. Listening is not about you. If you're going to be a Christian, there needs to be some part of each day that is not about you. It seems contrary to everything our fast paced world tells us: give up control for a few minutes. Let ten minutes be about someone else, let it be something you didn't ask for, something you don't control. Open yourself to the possibility of "wasting" that time, of letting that time go. You will be doing it in the service of someone else.

It has become a very noisy world, and we are being called to listen.

Pam Lobley

**GREEN
TAPE**

FIFTY YEARS, FIFTY FLASHBACKS

by Sister Rita Michael Aguillard, OSF

A fascinating story of the episodes in the life of a young American teacher who joined the WAAC's in 1942 which took her to North Africa, Italy and then to a position in the State Department in postwar Vienna. She returned to the U.S. and became a Franciscan nun.

Sr. Rita spent many years in Brazil and the US as she worked in hospitals, schools and with the poor. While in Brazil she worked together with Fr. John Burke (St. Peter's own Bishop John Burke).

It was through the efforts of Bishop Burke's fellow classmates at St. Cecelia's High School (Class of 1952) that this book was published. (178 PAGES)

**ORANGE
TAPE**

**THE FAITHFUL--A HISTORY OF
CATHOLICS IN AMERICA**

By James M. O'Toole

This book is the first comprehensive history of lay Catholics prayer, politics and fidelity to church teaching. The author is on the faculty of Catholic University.

The book begins with the first settlement of Catholics in the colonies up to the present time. The author gives us a glimpse into the possible future of the Church and its parishioners.

**GREY
TAPE**

THE LIVING WOOD-A NOVEL

By Louis de Wohl

This is a book filled with intrigue, power politics and romance revolving around Helena, saintly mother of Constantine, the first Christian emperor. It follows the quest for the True Cross through 50 years of exciting events in Christian history.

The two Audios and the Video mentioned below were donated to St. Peter's Parish Library by Msgr. Slipe just before leaving for his new assignment.

Video-

BEN-HUR with Charleston Heston as a Judean prince who is unjustly imprisoned and enslaved. There is a chariot race which results in his causing havoc upon the Roman Tribune.

Audio-

NEW GREAT THEMES OF SCRIPTURE

by Richard Rohr, O.F.M. -- 10 tapes

Fr. Rohr's dynamic preaching has opened up the Scriptures to people around the world.

Audio -

THE JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION FOR MEN AND WOMEN

-- by Richard Rohr, O.F.M.--2 tapes

Fr. Rohr is the author of many books. This is a story of human history and a story of transformation.

The St. Peter's Library is open before and after the 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass on Sundays. There will be volunteers on Sunday to help you.

The Library is open from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from Monday -Thursday.

The Library can be found just beyond the Msgr. Slipe Gathering Space, on the left-hand side, opposite the church itself.



For a gift of \$25.00 to St. Peter's Library, a book purchased by the Library will be inscribed with the name of a deceased person and the donor. Gifts towards additional shelves for the Library would be appreciated. For more information, please call Eleanor @ 201-262-0306.

