

# COME AND SEE

## What WE DO at Faith Sharing

We use a Scripture passage and our personal experiences to speak about GOD and to share how GOD personally inspires us through the Word, through the people we encounter each day, through nature and through life's joys, challenges and hopes.

A full week ahead of the time our Faith Sharing Gathering we know the Scripture passage, the topic and the issue we will be focusing upon together. We receive a letter through the mail with this information so we can "*think upon these things*" (*Paul to the Philippians 4: 8*) before we gather to share our thoughts with the group of no more than ten people once every four to six weeks.

We pray together before we begin to share with each other.

We call on God to give us the ears to listen and the mouth to share what is in each of our hearts.

During the first half hour of Faith Sharing, we LISTEN more than we speak. We discern, reflect, and draw out from our own spirituality how we relate to God's Word and God's people.

We hold in silence each person's sharing. After some moments of continued silence, the facilitator invites another person at the table to do the same.

## What WE DO NOT DO at Faith Sharing

We do not interrupt the person who is sharing his or her thoughts and inspirations. Each person takes the time she or he needs to do this. Some need just a few sentences. Others need several minutes.

No one is "*expected*" to share. It is the Spirit of God who calls us to share if and what we can with others at the table. Some members of the group come to listen, to be inspired, to learn more about how GOD relates to us and to learn how each of us can better listen to GOD and to act upon our relationship with GOD and GOD's people.

DO WE SPEAK WITH EACH OTHER AS A GROUP? YES

When all have shared their personal reflections on the Scripture passage and the topic/ issue being addressed, the facilitator opens the time for conversation.

But, we do not debate or use this time to convince others of our opinions and beliefs. Our intention is not to become academic or "preachy." We are here together to be respectful and open-minded about GOD's workings within each of us. We are here to learn from each other and to pray with each other for a deepening of our own spirituality and our response to the way GOD calls each of us to live our Faith as the Prayer for the Renewal of our Parish expresses so clearly.