

## **DUTIES OF A PASTORAL FACILITATOR**

**Small Church Communities are face-to-face gatherings of six to twelve people who invest time with one another for the common purpose of applying gospel values to every aspect of their lives. Members commit themselves to the mission of Jesus in the world. In developing these small communities we emphasize five essential signs of communal life: sharing, learning, mutual support, mission, and prayer. These elements express a spirituality that acknowledges complete dependence upon God for creation of community while providing a structured format for meetings. By incorporating these five elements the small church community becomes a place where members can hear their baptismal call, feed on the Gospels, and participate in continuing the mission of Jesus. The duties of the pastoral facilitator are:**

- ✚ To keep the vision of church before the members of the small churches.**
- ✚ To be welcoming and hospitable to others letting each member know that he/she is highly valued.**
- ✚ To be sensitive and caring. If one person is hurting or unusually distressed, the leader notices and recognizes the pain. If a member is missing from the meeting, the leader should call after the meeting to let the person know he/she was missed. Also, the leader should invite a shy or fearful person to share while quieting the dominating person who takes control of the group and diverts it away from faith-sharing toward personal agendas.**
- ✚ To be an active listener. Not only must the group focus on the scriptures but pay attention to what is occurring in the group.**
- ✚ To challenge the small church to growth. The group must not turn into a cozy support group or social group. The pastoral facilitator will need to encourage the members to be prepared for the meetings by reading the Gospel several times before attending the meeting. Each person is called to be a contributing member, and thus preparation for the meeting is essential. It is only then that the Word can transform our lives.**

- ✚ To set the stage for growth in faith. The Bible is given a place of prominence. A candle or a symbol reflecting the theme of the Scripture readings can also be utilized. Refreshments can add to the social and communal bonding of the group. It is best to leave the social time to the end of the meeting.**
- ✚ To be a person of prayer. Prayer helps leaders remember that God works in people's lives. The meeting itself ought to have a conducive atmosphere for prayer.**
- ✚ To represent the Small Church Community at the meetings for Pastoral Facilitators with the pastor and director. These meetings will occur about once every 6 weeks. These meetings link the Small Church with the larger Church.**