

■ Ignatian Small Group Toolkit ■

For Parish Faith-Sharing Groups

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This toolkit provides practical guidance for starting and sustaining Ignatian parish faith-sharing groups. It is meant for parish leaders, facilitators, and anyone who wishes to create spaces where parishioners can pray, share, and accompany one another in the journey of faith.

■ 1. How to Start a Parish Faith-Sharing Group

- Begin with prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to guide this new initiative.
- Gather interested parishioners: Invite small numbers (6–10 people) for effective sharing.
- Choose a regular time and place: Weekly or bi-weekly meetings, in homes or parish spaces.
- Use a simple structure: Opening prayer, Gospel reading, silent reflection, faith-sharing, closing prayer.
- Build gradually: Start small, let the group grow organically.

■ 2. Roles of Facilitators

- The facilitator's role is not to teach, but to create a safe and prayerful environment.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Welcome participants warmly.
 - Guide the flow of the meeting.
 - Keep focus on prayer and faith-sharing, not debate.
 - Ensure everyone has a chance to speak.
 - Respect the agreed time frame.
- Rotate facilitation among members to build ownership.

■ 3. Tips for Listening & Prayerful Conversation

- Listen with reverence — hear not only the words but the heart behind them.
- Use 'I' statements — share personal experience, not advice or judgment.
- Allow silence — pauses create space for God's voice.
- Confidentiality is essential — what is shared in the group stays in the group.
- Affirm contributions — thank people for their sharing.

■ 4. Sample Group Covenant

As members of this faith-sharing group, we commit ourselves to:

- Pray together regularly.
- Listen with respect and reverence.
- Share from personal experience, not from judgment.
- Respect confidentiality — what is shared here stays here.
- Support one another in prayer and in daily life.
- Allow God's Spirit to guide our journey together.

■ Closing Thought

Ignatian parish groups flourish when rooted in prayer, listening, and mutual support. They are small seeds of community that grow into strong witnesses of God's presence in parish life.