

Interested in Participating?

Are you deeply committed to the Catholic Church but feel inadequately prepared to share your faith with others? Are you a catechist or parish staff worker who is looking for more effective ways to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ? Perhaps you are a parishioner who feels the persistent nudge of the Spirit to help others at your parish to know God and love Him more deeply. Many of us feel such a nudge, but don't have confidence in our ability to really make a difference.

We don't need a theological degree to introduce others to Jesus Christ in a life-changing way. Although a thorough understanding of the faith is of course beneficial for any ministry, small groups allow a comfortable and effective setting for spiritual growth at any level. If you have a love for God and His Church, a love for others, and a willingness to follow God's call, you are ready to be commissioned! Now it's time to "go and make disciples" (Mt 28:19).

If you're looking to "make a connection" for Jesus Christ, the Diocesan program, CONNECTIONS, has something to offer you. Receive practical training on facilitating a Spirit-led small group. Learn how to use questions to dig into the Sacred Scriptures and the rich Tradition of the Church. Get a sense of how you can lead others into life-changing friendship with Jesus Christ through small groups.

Attend one of the small group facilitating training sessions Saturday, August 4 in Madison, Saturday, August 11 in Janesville, or Saturday, Sept. 15 in Madison. See the table inside the brochure for details. **Register online at www.madisoncatholic.org/oec/Connections or call 608-821-3163. Lunch is included and there is no fee.**

I am interested in CONNECTIONS.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Position/Parish: _____

Serving the Diocese of Madison

The Diocese of Madison is partnering with The Evangelical Catholic to provide strategic planning and training for CONNECTIONS. The Evangelical Catholic seeks to bring renewal to individuals, campus ministries, and parishes through an emphasis on interior conversion, devotion to the Scriptures, and participation in the Sacramental life of the Church, formation in the habits of Christian discipleship, commitment to intentional Christian community, and a passion for evangelization.

EC Ministry is a concrete model for bringing about this vision through the nurturing of individuals and ecclesial communities in their relationship with Jesus and His body, the Church.

Ecclesial Advisors

Most Reverend Bishop Robert Morlino
Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin

Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J.
Fordham University, Bronx, New York

Archbishop Timothy Dolan
Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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With Christ, the Church
and our communities,
through parish
small groups

What is CONNECTIONS?

Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our
Lord and savior Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 3:18

All of our parishes have programs, organizations, service groups, classes, and of course, daily and weekly Masses that connect parishioners to Christ and each other.

Many parishes also have adult formation activities that teach essential doctrines of our Catholic faith and help parishioners grow in their relationship with God and the Church.

John Paul II challenged the Church “to form Ecclesial communities and groups of a size that allows for true human relationships” (*The Church in America*, January 22, 1999).

The purpose of CONNECTIONS is to help parishes to be intentional about forming and facilitating the small, Ecclesial groups that John Paul II encouraged.

Launching healthy small groups can be difficult. Training facilitators, nourishing the groups, and choosing materials is time-consuming. Through CONNECTIONS the Diocese of Madison will provide this support.



"The parish is not principally a building, but rather, 'the family of God, a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit,' 'a familial and welcoming home,' the 'community of the faithful.'"

John Paul II (*The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People*, 26)

CONNECTIONS SCHEDULE

2007 –2008	To REGISTER for Training Sessions—see backside of brochure!
Spring/Summer	Parishes invite parishioners to be Facilitators and Hosts for the Small Groups
Saturday, June 23	Initial Training Session for Facilitators (St. John the Baptist, Montello) - Background and skills for successful Small Groups
Saturday, August 4	Initial Training Session for Facilitators (BOCC, Madison, 9am-3 pm) - Background and skills for successful Small Groups
Aug. 20–Sept.7	Weekly Facilitator Formation Meetings (optional) Regional Locations (Montello, Madison, Janesville)
Saturday, August 11	Initial Training Session for Facilitators (St. John Vianney, Janesville, 9am-3pm) - Background and skills for successful Small Groups
Saturday, September 15	Initial Training Session (BOCC, Madison, 9am-12pm, intensive session) Pre-Launch Training for Facilitators (BOCC, Madison, 12:45-3 pm) - Lunch included - Weekly Parish Invitation Strategies
September 15-October 15	Parish Invitation and Sign-ups for CONNECTIONS Small Groups
October 14 - November 21	6-week Series of Small Groups - Materials provided!
Saturday, December 8	Reception for Small Group Facilitators at the BOCC, Madison Time - TBD
January – Date TBD	Small Group Facilitator Training - Background and skills for successful Small Groups
January - Date TBD	Pre-Launch Planning for Lent Small Groups
February 10	Launch 6-week Lenten Series Small Groups
February–April	Parishes and diocese recruit Facilitators and Hosts for '08-'09 Small Groups
April/May	Spring Facilitator Training for '08-'09 Small Groups

