
MAKE CHURCH MATTER

Build from Below

At our parish of Nativity to grow disciples we developed a strategy of small groups. The power of small groups comes from forming relationships in which *conversations* lead to *conversion*. God made us to learn from other people's experiences and examples. When people sit in a circle and listen to other people's stories, they grow in an understanding of what works in life and how life itself works.

In a sin-stained world, all of us have struggles. We are not always the person we *want* to be or even the one we *appear* to be. Most of us do not have a place where we can bring our struggles and problems. We have nowhere to share our joys and sorrows. We are taught to hide our hurts and hang-ups and to fudge on our faults and fears.

Unfortunately a lot people walk away from church because they do not feel that they are worthy or welcome.

In a small group we can trust people to know our story and accept us despite our imperfections. Small groups are the opportunity for us to do what the Bible tells us to do for other Christians, "*Bear One another's burdens, and so you will fulfil the law of Christ*" [Galatians 6:2]

Healthy churches aren't just growing; they're growing disciples. Small groups are our schools for discipleship.

Taken from, *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran