

## **Books**

- *Forming Intentional Disciples*, Sherry Weddell. An excellent book that outlines several of the problems facing the modern American church today and proposes various solutions.
- *Divine Renovation*, Fr. James Mallon.
- *Rebuilt*, Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran. Both of these books tell stories of parishes that sought to transform under a new plan of evangelization. Both offer lots of practical advice including great information on how to get small groups going in a Catholic setting.
- *Simple Church*, Thom Rainer. A practical, data-based book that helps parishes structure themselves around a simple, focused mission.
- *Creating Community*, Andy Stanley. Entirely dedicated to small group formation, this group is an excellent guide to getting groups started.

## **Parish Programs**

- *Alpha*, this program is free of charge and used in thousands of Catholic parishes around the country. Participants have a meal, watch a video, and then discuss in small groups. It can be done with 8 people or 800. [www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org)
- *Christ-Life*, similar to Alpha in format, Christ-Life walks participants through a three phase process that helps form them as disciples. [www.christlife.org](http://www.christlife.org)
- *CHRP (Christ Renews His Parish)* a parish retreat that, as the titles implies, helps renew a parish with new energy and excitement. It provides an excellent start for small groups. [www.dynamiccatholic.com/chrp](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/chrp)
- *Dynamic Catholic* programs, Matthew Kelly's company DC offers a wide variety of programs that are perfect for small groups to use. Great materials for discussion and training on an assortment of engaging topics. [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com)
- *Be My Witness*, a two-phased program from RENEW International that focuses on evangelization. Phase 1 equips parish staff and leaders to lead mission-focused change and the second phase uses small groups to engage and form parishioners as missionary disciples. [www.bemywitness.org](http://www.bemywitness.org)

## **Best Practices**

Mike Lorenzo, St. John the Evangelist. Mike has been running small group ministry at St. John for two years now. St. John currently has more than 200 parishioners involved in small groups meeting weekly/bi-weekly, and has had more than 450 people take part in the Alpha course over a year and a half.

## **Speakers**

- Deacon Bob Marben can give the presentation "Gospel of John." It is a lecture of key topics of John.  
Length: four separate sessions, each one hour long

Format: lecture and interactions  
Recommended Audience: post high school  
Recommended Audience Size: no more than 50  
Recommended Season (if any): n/a  
Preparatory Work: read the scripture introduction to the Gospel of John  
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben  
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065  
Equipment Requirements: n/a

- Deacon Bob Marben can give the presentation “Synoptic Gospels.” It is a lecture about the key points of Matthew/Mark/Luke.  
Length: 2 hours  
Format: lecture and table discussions and interaction  
Recommended Audience: post high school  
Recommended Audience Size: no more than 50  
Recommended Season (if any): n/a  
Preparatory Work: n/a  
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben  
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065  
Equipment Requirements: n/a
  
- Deacon Bob Marben can give a presentation called “Christian History and Spirituality Through Art and Architecture.” Sources are in Italy.  
Length: 2 hours  
Format: lecture and table discussion and interaction  
Recommended Audience: post high school  
Recommended Audience Size: no more than 50  
Recommended Season (if any): n/a  
Preparatory Work: n/a  
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben  
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065  
Equipment Requirements: screen and projector for computer hook-up
  
- Deacon Bob Marben can give a presentation called “Footsteps of Saint Paul.” It is about Paul’s life, letters and historical sites he visited.  
Length: four separate sessions, each two hours long  
Format: PowerPoint with important sites in Greece and Turkey  
Recommended Audience: post high school  
Recommended Audience Size: maximum 100  
Recommended Season (if any): n/a  
Preparatory Work: read the scripture introduction to all of St. Paul’s letters  
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben  
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065  
Equipment Requirements: screen and projector for computer hook-up

