

FIVE ELEMENTS OF SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

- PRAYER:** The element of prayer emphasizes the centrality of God's presence and action in each small Christian community member's life, and in the life of the community itself.
- SHARING:** Sharing means talking freely about God and about life experiences and reflecting on these in the light of scripture and tradition.
- MUTUAL SUPPORT:** In a society in which gospel values are all too frequently ridiculed and rejected, the follower of Christ needs a community which is supportive of these values. The small Christian community encourages fidelity to the gospel and also challenges itself and its members to a more profound and authentic commitment to Christian living.
- LEARNING:** Because small Christian communities are part of the wider Church they are called to an ever fuller knowledge and understanding of the gospel of the Catholic Church and its teaching on faith and morals, and of the relationship of that teaching to the circumstances and issues of their lives.
- MISSION:** Authentic Christian communities are, like Jesus, committed to a life of mission or service. As a group and through its individual members, the community will work for compassion, justice, reconciliation and peace within the group, in the family, in the workplace, in the neighborhood and within the wider society.