

Good Afternoon, a pleasure to be with you. I was a Participant and facilitator of one of the many small group gatherings around the Parish

There are more than 20 groups with over 200 persons participating. We have youth groups, mixed groups (men and woman), woman only and men only- the choice is yours.

Many of us want to experience more faith in our own lives, but with don't know how to get there.

I believe the Arise Process is the answer.

You can see the tremendous effort the Parish is making to convince you to get involved in this program.

Let me explain how Arise works.

1<sup>st</sup> by forming small communities of faithful people who meet one evening a week for 6 weeks.

2<sup>nd</sup> to grow in our own faith by concentrating on the scriptures and associated essays which are discussed and shared by the participants.

3<sup>rd</sup> By living the experience the members feel the Peace and Joy of drawing closer to the Lord in their daily lives and to one another.

Let me share my experience:

Last October Season 1 the theme was Encountering Christ today

My group of 12 men ages 40's to the 90's were gifts to one another. At the end of the first session the approval was overwhelming and continued for the next five weeks. Everyone and I mean all of them felt tremendous spiritual benefits from this encounter.

One man, John Hurley from the Parish who is 91 years old, a very active member who loved to read the scriptures to us and was revered for his wisdom and knowledge of life.

At the end of the last meeting we were asked to write of our own experience. John wrote that he had gained more respect for scriptures and felt a much stronger relationship with Jesus.

Another important factor in this process is the timing.

Season II co-insides with the Lenten Season. Most practicing Catholics try to accomplish something in their lives during Lent. What is better than participating in an Arise gathering- Guaranteed to make Easter, much more meaningful and a better relationship with the Lord.

I will leave you with one thought as you ponder your decision:

Life is short  
Eternity is forever

God Bless you and thank you for listening