

My name is Linda Philbrook I would like to invite you back to the next six week session of the arise program during LENT if you were among the 200 people who attended before. I want to describe ARISE and invite more participants for this second session. I heard about Arise last summer as a way to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese. I did not plan to attend at first. A discussion group about faith where people share and there is no right or wrong responses just was not attracting me. BUT THEN 2 things happened to change my mind. The pastor in my home parish said there is no one here who cannot learn something and no one who cannot share something. Then Fr. Casey invited the faculty and staff to participate. So I filled out a form such as you see here now. Each 90 minute session follows an Arise booklet with 4 sections. We discuss topics in confidence but there is no criticism or contradiction. We learn that we have a lot in common with people we recognize but never met before or at least spent time with except to greet at mass for years and years. The gospel is read - I read the gospel daily but I never took time to analyze it like this. Discussion questions are suggested and you can comment or listen -- but then you reflect how this affects me NOW TODAY and how I can ACT. So this 90 minutes is like a gift of time - to discuss God's message and how to apply it now. A response, an action, an act can be as simple as a phone call. The small group format - meeting in homes or a hall reminds me of early Christianity. Refreshments are served after the meeting. Some groups have chosen to keep up contact. Friends of mine joined the Food Bank Volunteers so that the group could continue the friendship until session 2. Groups are made up of 8-12 people age 14 and up - YES there are youth groups too --and meet AM, PM, evening. You can sign up today or ask questions about Arise downstairs after mass or think it over and take a form home. Arise together in Christ. Please consider it for Lent. Thank you.