

Faith & Action Circles – Getting Started

Faith and Action Circles are critical for building a committed team of well-trained and well-formed people for the work of evangelization of culture for marriage and family. It is time to unite, end the sense of isolation that so many are feeling and join a positive effort to rebuild a marriage culture without fear of retribution or intimidation by those trying to redefine marriage and the family. Our work starts with our own conversion, and learning how to more effectively witness the truth about love, marriage, and human sexuality starting in our own family and amongst our closest friends and co-workers.

I. Learning about the Program

1. To gain an understanding about how a *Stand with Children* Faith and Action Circle works and learn how to moderate it, follow the clear instructions in the Faith and Action Circle Meeting Leadership Guide.
2. Then, gather a small group of like-minded people and try a session on your try a session. The process is easy and rewarding.

II. Starting a Circle

1. **Gather like-minded people** who want to join the movement to take back marriage and interested in growing in their faith and learning new and effective ways for discussing the reality of love, marriage, human sexuality and family with children and adults.
2. **Determine a good time and location** for your weekly gatherings.
 - A. Try a variety of times (morning, noon, evening), venues (parish, private home) and styles of meeting (following morning Mass, with potluck, while the kids play) to determine what works best for your group.
 - B. If you find that group members have different needs, break into a couple of circles.
3. **Identify people to form new Circles**
 - A. Talk with friends, family, parishioners, and other like-minded people about mutual concerns and the need for positive action. Encourage them to become part of your group. If your group is large (8-10 members is good to encourage sharing), recommend they start their own group.
 - B. Contact CCG trainees, supporters, volunteers, and participants (contact CCG for help in finding other people in your area), and invite them to begin circles in their areas. Help them through the process.

III. Targeting Parishes for New Circles

1. **Identify Target Parishes.** Work with other volunteers in your area to identify parishes with pastors who would like be receptive and could support several Faith and Action Circles. These should be thriving parishes with active laity.

2. Obtain Pastor's Support

- A. Send a letter or arrange a meeting with the pastor introducing him to the program and sharing the Faith and Action Circle Meeting Leadership Guide.
- B. Work with the pastor to identify key parishioners to help launch the program in the parish. Look for people who are very passionate about marriage and family, but not necessarily those who are already involved in many ministries.

3. Arrange Introductory Event

- A. Work with the pastor and key parishioners to put together an event at which a representative of CCG can give an informational and motivational talk to a broad audience.
- B. The talk would give an overview of the state of marriage and family today, the goals of CCG in leading the movement to take back marriage, and the method of formation, training, and action to build an army of lay Catholics for positive action.

4. Sign up Attendees

- A. Make sure to sign up all attendees of this event. Everyone will be added to the CCG email list to be kept up to date on all action alerts, events, and news items.
- B. In addition, sign up all interested people for new Faith and Action Circles.

IV. Regional Networking

1. Moderators of the small circles, regional co-chairs, and parish representatives network to work on larger regional projects, events, activities, and action items. These leaders are able to come together as a group, then to mobilize members of their small circles for action.
2. Regional leaders will work together to put on conferences and other events and mobilize participants for action.



promoting the
centrality and integrity of
marriage for children
and society