

Director of Ave Maria University's Institute for Pastoral Theology Comments on *Faith Alive* Resources

"I want to commend the author for: how pleasing and handsome the layout is; the uncomplicated and straightforward presentation of the main point of each session; the use of powerful examples from the today of the Church to show that what occurred in the biblical accounts remains the life of the Church today; the emphasis on integrating faith and life through service; the balanced complementarity of Scripture, the Catechism, commentary, provocative questions, prayer, and group interaction. It is clear that this is the fruit of years of pastoral experience guided by sound theology."

Douglas Bushman, S.T.L., Director of the Institute for Pastoral Theology, Ave Maria University

Faith Alive Testimonials from Diocese of La Crosse

"The material was just about perfect. It was not too biblical, nor was it too off-the-cuff. There was a great blend of readings, which helped us generate ideas and thoughts, and give everyone something to contribute. It is such a blessing to witness the Holy Spirit at work, as people who did not know each other find common bonds and are able to share their love for each other."

Chris D. – St. Joseph Parish, Stratford

"I have used a lot of materials from different backgrounds and I want to say I was really impressed with this resource. There was a sense of cohesiveness to everything. And the material is presented in such a way that it is very, very approachable for the average Catholic."

Mike S. – St. Mary's Parish, Colby

"The *Faith Alive* program is going very well and the adults tell me how happy they are to be able to share in learning more about our faith. There is a hunger out there for adults. Everyone wants to be there and the feeling of caring, sharing and love is quite evident. I really enjoy that time. These experiences have really fed my faith."

Gabrielle Y. – Holy Family Parish, Thorp

"Our *Faith Alive* group is exceptional. Because the program encourages you to make a living witness of your faith, you can't help but share it outside the group. It's a stepping-stone to more, both for the individual and the parish."

David A. – Blessed Sacrament Parish, La Crosse

"I am involved in a *Faith Alive* group for Lent. I just want you to know that we have had the best sessions we've ever had. This week I had the flu and I still couldn't stay home. I went and sat off by myself in the corner so that I could be part of the session. I most enjoyed the stories of St. Thérèse and St. Francis. Thank you so much for giving us such a wonderful program. It certainly is not a sacrifice to go to the sessions! It's just exactly what I need in my life right now."

Rita H. – Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Independence

"We have had about 21 people that have been attending on a regular basis. There have been a number of amazing stories of faith, conversion, etc., that have been coming out of these groups!!"

Jim T. – St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Almond

"I have been facilitating a group of seven parishioners, and it has been wonderful. For the service component we are planning to provide a meal at a local meal location. This will be a new experience for nearly all members of the group, and we plan on having our children assist in the experience."

Jim G. – St. Bronislava Parish, Plover

"I am having lots of good feedback on the *Faith Alive* material and I believe that everyone will be interested in attending future groups. A few of us made a visit to the Place of Grace [Catholic Worker House]...and found it to be a very worthwhile project and I am sure that we will repeat the service in the future. Just getting us out of our comfort zone - (being one of the older crowd) has been very interesting."

Marilyn P. – Blessed Sacrament Parish, La Crosse

"Participation was good and we had some real great personal insight and sharing. Everyone was so happy they were a part of this experience and want more. We always look forward to the next session. It is so inspiring!! Our service projects consisted of visiting the nursing home and writing letters. Also several of us, along with some other parish members, got together and made greeting cards. These cards will be going with my wife and me to Waveland, Miss. to be given to persons in need. We're leaving for a week to rebuild houses damaged by Katrina. Each card will contain a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card. Our parish got the fund drive going and we're up to almost \$800 so far. Our project pretty much got beyond our little group of 6 people. Pretty awesome."

Gary A. – St. Henry's Parish, Eau Galle

"The facilitator of the afternoon *Faith Alive* group told me one of the women in the program (one of my former RCIA candidates) made the remark that 'Catholics just don't realize what they have, it's not found anywhere else.' I guess that's what we're trying to make people understand!"

Diane F. – St. Mary's Parish, Colby