

## Why SCC?

*What can still be improved in our parish?*

*How well do we cooperate with each other in the parish?*

*Do we feel we belong in our parish community?*

*How do we experience the presence of God in our Church activities and services?*

Or, we hear many lay leaders lament:

*It is difficult to attract more people into the ministries, it is always the same people doing everything in the parish.*

*The Catholic Church is very cold, people do not feel welcomed and we go to church as individuals.*

### **We consult the Bible and Church documents:**

*What reasons for SCCs do we find in the following text:*

#### **From the Bible:**

Mark 3:13-19

John 17:18-23

Luke 8:1-3

John 12:6

Cor 16:19-20/ Col 4:15-18/ Philemon 1-3

Act 2:43-47

Act 11:19-26

#### **Vatican II, on the Church's 'missionary activity', art 15**

“Therefore, missionaries, the fellow workers of God, should raise up communities of the faithful, so that... they might carry out the priestly, prophetic and royal offices entrusted to them by God. In this way the community will become a sign of God's presence in the world.”

#### **John Paul II in 'Mission' (RM), art. 51**

“The Basic Ecclesial Communities are a sign of vitality within the Church, an instrument of formation and evangelization, and a solid starting point for a new society based on a 'civilization of love'.

These communities decentralize and organize the parish community, to which they always remain united... Within them, the individual Christian experiences community and therefore senses that he or she is playing an active role and is encouraged to share in the common task...

At the same time, by being imbued with Christ's love, they also show how divisions, tribalism and racism can be overcome.” (Encyclical Letter on the “Church's Missionary Mandate”,51)

#### **John Paul II in 'Christian Family' (FC), art 85**

“For those who have no natural family the doors of the great family which is the Church – the Church which finds concrete expression in the diocese and the parish family, in ecclesial basic communities and in movements of the apostolate – must be opened even wider.

No one is without a family in this world: the Church is a home and family for everyone especially those who 'labour and are heavy laden;”

**Fifth Plenary Assembly of the Federation of the Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), Bandung, 1990**

“The Church in Asia will have to be a communion of communities, where laity, religious and clergy recognize and accept each other as sisters and brothers. They are called together by the word of God which, regarded as a quasi-sacramental presence of the Risen Lord, leads them to form SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (e.g. neighbourhood groups, Basic Ecclesial Communities and ‘Covenant’ communities). There they pray and share together the Gospel of Jesus, living it in their daily lives as they support one another and work together, united as they are ‘in one mind and heart’”.

**AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa) STUDY CONFERENCE, 1979**

“The Christian communities we are trying to build are simply the most local incarnation of the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. ‘Small Christian Communities’ are the means by which the Church is brought down to the daily life and concerns of people where they actually live. In them the Church takes on flesh and blood in the life situations of people.” (AFER, Vol 21, pp265-266)