



# NEW LEAVEN

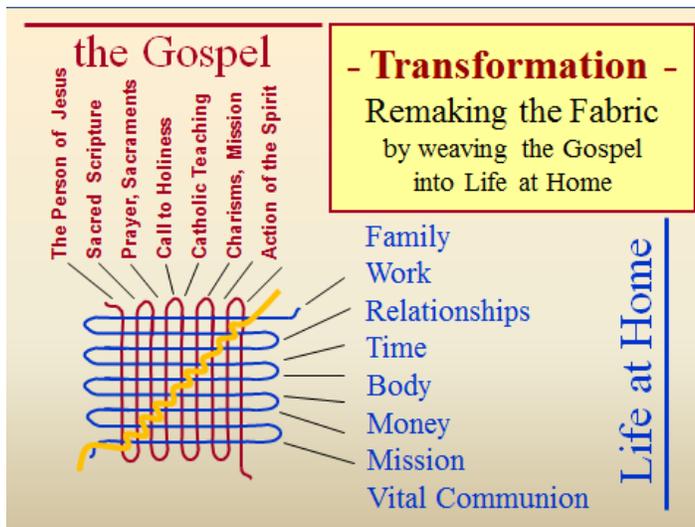
Weaving the Gospel into Our Lives

## Forming Disciples, as Enabled by the Spirit

### Introduction

A discipleship ministry named New Leaven has been developed as a means of personal transformation for Catholic adults who want to live more fully as disciples in their everyday lives. New Leaven is a substantive answer to the question ‘*What’s Next?*’ following the Alpha Course, a Life in the Spirit Seminar, ChristLife, or other such “ministries of outpouring” that may afford a personal encounter with Jesus and a release of the Holy Spirit. Strengthened by such grace, New Leaven seeks to address what Pope St. John Paul II called the “separation between life and the Gospel.” It’s for taking important steps that disentangle us from the ways of the world, now that we’ve received new power in the Holy Spirit and a desire to grow with other disciples of Jesus.

New Leaven provides a pastoral approach, with the aid of videos and printed materials, for guiding participants who meet in small groups. As shown in the figure, below, transformation comes as the several threads of “Life at Home,” are more and more closely woven with the truth taught by the



Church...i.e., the Gospel. As John Paul put it, we need to ‘remake’ this fabric. The primary value of this kind of transformation is the security that comes through obedience—as we increasingly live the truth we teach. It is the rock foundation that Jesus said would anchor us against any storm, once we’ve not only heard the Gospel but acted upon it. (see Mt 7:24-27) New Leaven is thus a remedy for religious sentiment that, in the end, never quite reaches the point of transforming life.

Although each parish sets its own pace for progressing through the New Leaven sessions, a total of nine modules are available, each

supporting four meetings, for a total of 36 sessions. The first module lays a common spiritual foundation, followed by the 8 modules of Life at Home, whose topics are listed in the figure, above.

New Leaven was founded in 2009 and piloted for 4 years by two parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. It is now an established work of discipleship that is being propagated to the larger Church.

## In Support of a Parish's Consideration of New Leaven

1. Any Catholic Parish that is effectively ministering to the need for adult conversion and renewal in the Holy Spirit is ripe for New Leaven. Please just contact the New Leaven founders, below, for information and advisory support.
2. The New Leaven team will advise the Parish in support of its considerations for commencing New Leaven. We will speak with you by phone, visit with your pastoral team, and make presentations as appropriate to support your examination of New Leaven.
3. Once the Parish decides on New Leaven and assigns a New Leaven Coordinator, the pastoral team discerns a group of individuals having the maturity to serve as "Pastoral Guides" for leading each of the small groups. (Those who have led small groups in Alpha, ChristLife, etc. are often good candidates for this role.)
4. The parish team—the Coordinator and Pastoral Guides—will be offered a 4-Hr. training session that is done live by the founders or by way of video and printed materials. The parish team is also advised to experience two, four-meeting modules of New Leaven together, prior to commencing the program in the parish.
5. The Parish decides between "Assembly" and "Modular" approaches for conducting New Leaven, as follows:
  - In the Assembly, several small groups are convened at the parish, per a fixed schedule.
  - In the Modular approach, individual small groups meet in homes, per their own schedule.
  - A Parish might choose to launch New Leaven as an Assembly, and later adopt the modular approach.
6. The Parish then fixes its intended start date, promotes the New Leaven opportunity among those who have completed Alpha, ChristLife, the Life in the Spirit Seminar, or another such ministry of outpouring, and proceeds to register participants and assign them to small groups.
7. The Parish obtains the affordable video and printed materials in quantities needed to serve New Leaven. A full set of DVDs covering all the program modules costs \$200 for the first set and \$150 for subsequent sets. The same recorded talks are also available as streaming video—the login code for an entire parish costs \$200 in the first year, reducing to \$100 in all later years. The Participant Guide books for individuals cost \$20 each. A set of Training DVDs costs \$30 and the accompanying "Parish Supplement" book is \$5 each.

## To Order New Leaven Materials

Please post your order or material inquiries via email to:

Mr. Ed Connolly,  
New Leaven Materials Manager  
[econnolly1249@me.com](mailto:econnolly1249@me.com)  
313-268-7265

## For Information and Support,

See our website – [www.newleaven.org](http://www.newleaven.org)

Or, Contact the New Leaven founders:

Dcn. Bob Ervin –

email: [bobervin@gmail.com](mailto:bobervin@gmail.com)

or phone: (734) 536-1783

Mr. Paco Gavrilides –

email: [gavrilides.francisco@shms.edu](mailto:gavrilides.francisco@shms.edu)

or phone: (734) 328-4305

*New Leaven enjoys endorsement by the Archbishop of Detroit and other leaders in Catholic renewal.*