

## St. Emile Parish - *ARISE TOGETHER IN CHRIST*



Three years ago St. Emile Parish began a parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization called ***ARISE Together in Christ***. This was a process of spiritual renewal, evangelization and adult faith formation enabling members to develop a closer relationship with Christ, to grow in community and to reach out in service to other Small Faith Sharing groups gathered in homes, at the Parish Center, and at

the Rectory. Our parish has been blessed in so many ways because of the dedicated parishioners who trained as leaders and by all those who faithfully participated in the small faith sharing communities.

We have experienced five distinct periods of time, called “Seasons”, each lasting six weeks. Season 1: (Fall) “Encountering Christ Today”, Season 2: (Lent): “Change our Hearts”, Season 3: (Fall) “In the Footsteps of Christ”, Season 4: (Lent): “New Heart, New Spirit”, Season 5: (Fall) “We Are the Good News.” Before each Season, information and an invitation were extended to our congregation and a special “Sign Up Weekend” was held.



During each Season, a beautiful banner was on display in the sanctuary, depicting the theme for the season. Our parish prayed the Arise prayer at Masses, included Arise in the Prayers of the Faithful, and included theme and scripture readings of the Arise week in our bulletin, allowing those unable to attend the Faith Sharing sessions to participate at home.

The fifth Season of Arise ended the week of November 16, 2014. A total of 120 parishioners have participated in Arise since its beginning.

On Friday, November 28, 2014, the Eve of Advent, all participants of Arise were invited to celebrate together! Young and old gathered in the chapel to close the Liturgical year and begin the new. Sixty adults and children from our small Arise Christian communities, Family Faith Program, First Reconciliation, and Youth group gathered to pray, sing, read scripture, witness, reflect, examine and reflect on the changes that were to transform us during this new Advent season.

The group then proceeded to the Parish hall where we made Advent wreaths for our homes with freshly cut spruce and cedar branches. Delicious snacks were provided, songs were sung amidst laughter and warm fellowship.



Thank you to our Pastor, leaders, hosts, families, praying at home, and all the call to this three-year pastoral renewal.

to the Arise coordinators, banner artists, parishioners participants for answering journey of spiritual and