



RENEW
INTERNATIONAL



Annual Report for Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

Date: April 2015

RENEW Pastoral Representative: Sister Marie Cooper

Overall Objective

Through the vehicle of faith sharing in small groups, the first three seasons of ARISE/DEBOUT gave participants an opportunity to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus, appreciate conversion as a life-long process, and become more knowledgeable about Catholic Social Teaching. As a result, participants, individually and communally, more readily connect faith with action in their daily lives.

Snapshot

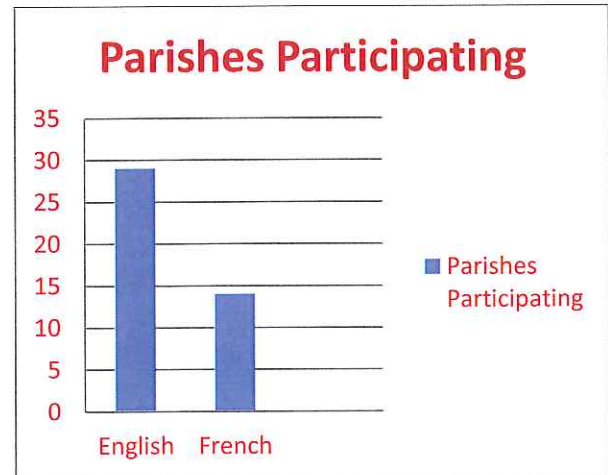
A quick look at the impact *ARISE/DEBOUT* is having in your diocese.

	English	French	Total
Parishes Participating	29	14	43
Workshops Held	10	6	16
Small Groups Formed	90	30	120
Total Participants	1,500	300	1,800



Outcome by the Numbers

- Parish Participation—43
 - English—29
 - French—14
- Workshops Conducted—16
 - English—10
 - French—6
- Small Groups
 - English—more than 90
 - French—more than 30
- Small Group Participants
 - English—more than 1,500
 - French—more than 300



Locales using children's materials

- Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic School District
- Several parishes—are using the materials in English and French

Parishes using youth materials

One parish is using them in English

Faith-Sharing materials languages/format used

English, French and English large-print edition

Parishes with the Largest Participation

- English
 - Holy Redeemer
 - St. Gregory
 - Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption
- French
 - Ste. Anne des Pins
 - l'Annonciation
 - St. Joseph-Chelmsford





Encountering Christ and Deepening Faith

Outreach to persons with special needs:

A small community at *St. Alexander* organized the collection of magazines and children's books for placement in hospitals and nursing homes.

New Initiatives:

A number of small groups, either on their own or in collaboration with other groups and with the parish as a whole, responded to different needs:

1. Consciousness-raising:

St. Patrick: Weekly publication and highlighting of the principles of Catholic social teaching during Season III.

St. Kevin: Successful introduction of Fair Trade products to parishioners who now purchase them regularly.

2. Faith Formation

Christ the King: In response to the felt need, Fr. Bob Bourgon was invited to provide an evening information session on the sacrament of matrimony and the declaration of nullity process.

3. Creating a greater sense of welcome in the parish

St. Andrew: A small group began greeting and acknowledging parishioners they sit with or see in church and are also making an effort to do so with their neighbors.

Our Lady of Hope: a small group hosted coffee after Mass. Many attended and the event was greatly appreciated.

4. Movie Night

St. Jerome: After a small group watched the movie *Courageous*, they continued to meet once a month for a Christian movie night.

5. New Ministry

St. Jerome: As they became aware of the need, one small group began organizing and taking communion to the homebound or providing transportation to church.

Youth and families

St. Kevin: Introduction of drawing/doodling with reflection on Scripture helped participants better express what they are feeling and thinking about.

Holy Family: Gathered youth in faith-sharing groups. Participants became interested and eager to make a positive contribution to the parish and the broader community.

Holy Family: Parents together with children were involved in the themes of Season III

Putting Faith into Action

Advocacy

Holy Name: Aware of the inability of low-income people to claim medical expenses as a tax deduction, a small group, in conjunction with CWL, formulated a resolution to send to the national level to be presented to the government

Outreach

St. Veronica and St. Jerome: As the soup kitchen was only serving one a month some of the small-group members of the two parishes have gotten together to provide hot meals on three Sundays a month.

St. Jude, Espanola: A small group has approached the pastor with a view to establishing a soup kitchen.

Several other parishes reported that small-group participants joined or initiated holiday outreach efforts, contributed to existing

organizations, and volunteered their services at soup kitchens and food pantries.

Growth and development

Our Lady of Fatima: The parish reports that more people are joining small groups, wanting to experience *ARISE*.

Many parishes report personal growth in faith, discovery of God's gifts in oneself and in the community members, and spiritual healing and transformation.

Parishes also report experiencing a greater closeness as a parish, more joy and life when they gather.

Vibrant Parish Life

The overall evaluation of this season of *ARISE/DEBOUT* was very positive. As one small-group leader stated:

"This was the easiest season to facilitate. The stories were very helpful, and the topics were down to earth and it was easy for people to get in touch with them and move to action."

Celebration

Many parishes reported planning a special celebration at the end of Season III. Of note is *St. Vincent de Paul*, where the team planned a beautiful, meaningful liturgy for all involved in *DEBOUT* and had a sending forth using specially created bookmarks on each of which were printed one of the principles of social justice together with a challenge.

