

FELLOWSHIP OF CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN WOMEN®
STARTING A FELLOWSHIP



God has called you to a new and exciting ministry.

The following is a guide to help you begin a women's fellowship group in your parish.

1. Meet and communicate regularly with your Regional Outreach Representative (ROR) or Liaison (ROL).
Contact info: _____
2. Ask permission: Meet with or write a letter to your parish priest or pastoral coordinator explaining your desire to begin a **Fellowship of Catholic Christian Women** fellowship group at your parish. The explanation should include a brief summary about the **FCCW** ministry including its status as a diocesan approved apostolic group in the diocese of *San Bernardino, CA*. You should include some items from your "New Fellowship Packet": **FCCW** brochure, *Message from our Foundress*, *Organization Flow Chart*, testimonials from **FCCW** participants. If you feel the need for additional supporting documentation ~ including the diocesan recognition letter from the Diocese of San Bernardino, CA ~ ask your Regional Outreach Representative. Assure your pastor or pastoral coordinator that the **FCCW** organization provides training and ongoing support. Request approval to begin a group, preferably meeting on parish property.
3. Advertise! Upon approval, place an announcement in your parish bulletin. The announcement should be concise with your name and phone number as a contact for more information. Ask your ROR/ROL to proofread and approve the announcement prior to publishing to ensure compliance with our trademark guidelines.

SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT:

Are you looking for a way to meet and share your faith with Catholic women in our parish community?

The **Fellowship of Catholic Christian Women®** ministry invites you to "come and see".

Activities will include Faith Sharing and Scripture Study, Prayer Support,
Speakers, Women's Celebrations, and Retreats.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact _____.

***It is recommended that the announcement be placed in the bulletin at least 3-4 times.**

The best way to let women know about the ministry is to tell them yourself and to ask those women to tell others. Your enthusiasm will spark interest and excitement.

4. Begin forming your core team. Don't worry about finding and choosing the person you think is right for the job. Most of the time God already has touched the hearts of those women He has chosen to help with the ministry. Talk about the women's ministry and your need for women to help you get it started, keeping an open mind and heart, and He will lead the women to you. When you are ready for your first meeting, you should have another facilitator and at least 2 other women who will assist you with music, set-up, greeting, refreshments, clean-up, etc.
5. Discuss dates, times, and places available for your fellowship meetings. It is recommended that you meet at least once. and preferably twice a month. Many fellowship groups do not meet during the summer months, and some take a break during the Christmas holidays.
6. Plan an informational meeting. Advertise the time and place in the parish bulletin as this would serve as an additional announcement about the group's formation. The meeting should include general information about the ministry and allow for questions and discussion.
7. Attend FCCW meetings at a group approved as a mentoring fellowship by the ROR in your area. Attend as many meetings as possible but *at least 2* during your formation process. In addition, invite women who have expressed interest in the ministry to attend with you. Although any woman is welcome at any meeting, it is recommended that you notify the facilitators of the group you would like to visit stating when and with whom you will be attending. You may want to visit more than one parish since each fellowship has its own uniqueness. This will give you a variety of ideas for your own meetings. Check with your ROR/ROL for the mentoring fellowship closest to you.
8. Begin the *Facilitator Orientation Program*. Contact your ROR for details about this required training.
9. Don't hesitate to ask questions. We are available for guidance and support. Contact your ROR or ROL.
10. Pray daily for God's guidance during your formation process.