

Group Facilitator Profile

Thank you for volunteering to act as a Group Facilitator for one of our groups.

What's involved?

Following the DVD presentation the course participants form small discussion groups of about six to ten persons who are helped by a Group Facilitator.

What sort of person makes a good Group Facilitator?

A good Group Facilitator is a patient well balanced prayerful person who can take charge of a group without imposing themselves upon it. They do not focus attention on themselves or on their own opinions but focus on the needs of others. They have a gentle approachable welcoming personality and are careful to put others at their ease. They are humble enough to admit they do not know the answers (and are not expected to) and yet firm enough to insist the group refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for the answers. They are mindful of the feelings of others. They are careful to give everyone an opportunity to speak and diplomatically skilful enough not to allow any one person to hog the discussion for too long.

What does a Group Facilitator need to do?

The Group Facilitator is not a teacher but someone who facilitates discussion while at the same time keeping the group focussed on the subject of the talk. He/she is like a chairperson who uses the subject of the DVD talk, the Course Book questions and the Answer Key to guide the group in discovering what the Church teaches. The Group Facilitator encourages each person to say something, especially the quieter less talkative members of the group, with open ended prompts like "any thoughts on this John?" but does not insist that everyone makes a contribution to the discussion. They never put anyone on the spot with specific questions nor ask anyone to read anything.

When questions arise that are not covered in the talk or in the student workbook the Group Facilitator will gently but firmly insist the group refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) for the answers. The Group Facilitator is humble enough to admit they do not know the answers (even when they think they might know) and always responds to such situations with something like "well, lets see what the *Catechism* says on that" and thus invites the group to discover together what the Church really teaches. The Group Facilitator never attempts to 'wing it' or guess the answer nor do they agree with anyone without reference to the CCC."

What does the Group Facilitator need to have?

Please ensure you have a Catholic Bible, a copy of the CCC, the Course Book questions and the Course Book Answer Key.