

New Wineskins Mission

Catholic Traditions and Spirituality

(We have facilitated this program in over 40 parishes in northeastern Ohio and across the country.)

This mission centers on helping us as Catholics to strengthen the connection between our ancient, yet ever new Catholic roots and spirituality and our contemporary, fast paced daily life, love, and work.

We facilitate a process through which people come to view their relationships and their work (whatever productive activity they do) as a call and mission of loving service, which is meant to make the world a better, more productive place.

The heart of this process is the three session journey of reflection from self to our place and work in the world. It includes presentations, personal reflection time, music, prayer and fellowship. The gatherings would be facilitated by a member of the Heart to Heart mission team who, joined by members of the faith community's team, will present a format that helps people to better see and feel the connections between their faith and values and their daily activities. Below are brief descriptions of the themes for each session (sessions are typically three consecutive evenings, but this can be adapted).

For further information, including a New Wineskins' packet of materials, please contact Father Norm Douglas, by email, fathernorm@livingfaithatwork.org, or by phone, 330-434-3278.

Session One: Getting Centered in Our Off-Centered World

Our Catholic Roots—Benediction. The focus is on Catholic traditions that emphasize the presence of God in the daily lives of his faithful. Develops awareness of the serenity, wisdom, humility, strength, inspiration, and love that comes with centering our lives on the ongoing, immediate presence of God. Offers examples and suggestions on how to center and re-center ourselves during each day's work.

Session Two: Liturgy and Life—Strengthening the Connections

Our Catholic Devotion—Stations of the Cross. The focus is on the opportunity for growth inherent in the difficult times of our lives. Attention is given to joining with Jesus in the call to sacrificial love, to dying to oneself and to one's ego issues in order to rise to a better way of living.

Session Three: Getting to the Heart and Soul of Living, Loving, and Working

Our Catholic Vocation—Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. The focus is on our baptismal charge and the vocation of the laity. Attention is drawn to the acts of ordinary life in the life gospels and connecting the incidents to our mission as disciples of Jesus to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19). It is about how we can be disciples teaching those around us about Jesus in the course of our daily lives.