



“The Reach More training group was such a blessing! It helped reignite my personal prayer and faith practices at a time of uncertainty during the pandemic. Building intimacy and relationships with the other participants softened my heart and helped me look at scripture, relationships, and people with a new and deeper perspective. The most valuable part of the training was the emphasis on looking outward, building relationships, and sharing the good news with others as core part of growing in my own faith.” – Amy Lawrence, Reach More Mission Training participant

“I became more spiritually connected with a broad section of people from my church community.” - Peggy Tucker, Reach More Mission Training participant

SMALL GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Group 1 “My Lenten experience was deepened this year with the help of the small group study I participated in. The study gave me a focus with the daily and Sunday readings that kept the word alive in my daily life. The weekly discussions showed me how God’s grace works in and through others. I would participate again in a small group and recommend it to others.” – Kathy Stock, Small Group Participant

Group 2 “Hearing what others had to say, helped me in a dark period in my life.” –Mai Quynh Nguyen, Small Group Participant

Group 3 “My experience in small group was beautiful. It was most joyful to share the word of God with new friends in a peaceful, caring prayer group. I really enjoyed the practice of *lectio divina*. It has taught me how to pray more deeply.” –Deb Fabian, Small Group Participant

Group 4 “I went to Catholic school and this program has deepened my faith in the Catholic Church Scripture.” –Sandy Ackerman, Small Group Participant

Group 5 “I met several women in this Lenten small group whom I’ve seen often but barely knew or didn’t know at all in this large parish. Praying and learning together was lovely, but it’s especially rewarding to run into them at the church now and easily exchange more than just ‘hellos’. Even if it is just a quick passing hello, it’s a deepened exchange because of our shared time.” –Yung Cao, Small Group Participant



118 MINISTRIES AROUND THE GLOBE

YOU ARE THE MOVEMENT

"We must continue to accomplish in ourselves the stages of Jesus' life and his mysteries . . . For it is the plan of the Son of God to make us and the whole Church partake in his mysteries and to extend them to and continue them in us and in his whole Church." (St. John Eudes, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 521).

God doesn't have a back-up plan. His plan is you, and it is me. This has been his plan since "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). His plan is for you and me to become "partakers in the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4), to become sons and daughters of God (John 1:12), living the very life of Christ (Galatians 2:20) so that he might complete and perfect his mysteries in and through us. That through us: through proximity, authentic relationships, and our professional work, we *might radiate the mystery that we have become* and bring others into this great adventure.

The past year has been difficult, but in the midst of difficulties the Church shines. In the darkest times, God has raised up the brightest and most adventurous saints. And nothing escapes his providence! He has orchestrated all of time and history leading up to this point. He has called you—not anyone else—with all of your talents and defects, with your unique experiences and circumstances, in this most unpredictable and difficult time, to be the one to extend his mysteries to the Church and the world. He has called and equipped you uniquely for this mission: to be his instrument to build and shepherd a movement of renewal in your community.

And you are doing it! Despite any and all setbacks and frustrations, despite the quietness and slowness of the growth, you are partaking in and extending the mysteries of the Son of God. All he asks of you is fidelity: to him, to prayer, to the people and duties of your vocation, and to the duties and tasks of the mission process in your community. He will take care of the rest (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:6). So, let us go forward, recommitting ourselves with ever greater fidelity and zeal to Jesus and the mission he has entrusted to us! Let us avail ourselves of him, of becoming his mystery, of becoming his mission.

- Peter Andrastek, Senior Ministry Consultant
The Evangelical Catholic

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

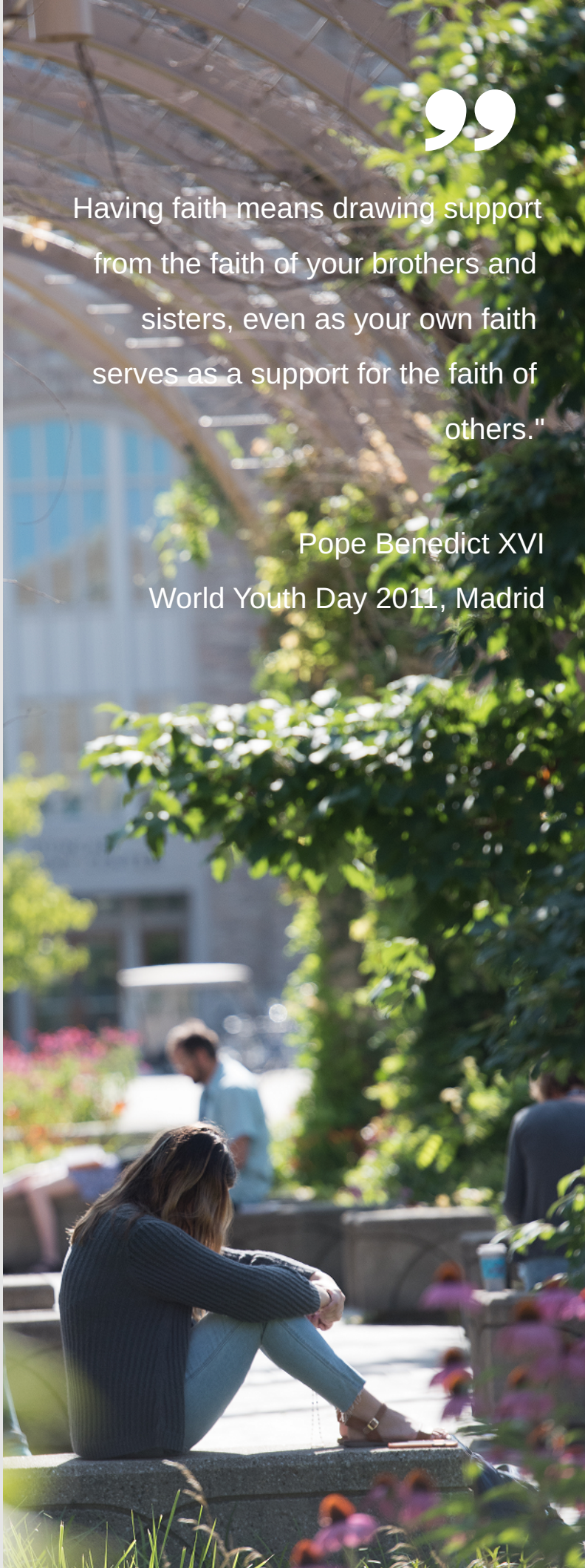
Our small group consisted of women across the parish who met via Zoom over the course of Lent. The regular meetings provided a space and time for us to linger over the word and contemplate the Lenten journey in our own lives. It was also a place for sharing and encouragement in our daily lives. When the women shared their everyday experiences—the challenges, the mini-celebrations, and the mundane—these were reflected on as a critical part of our whole lives as Christians. Sometimes, it's easy to divorce the parts of our lives like motherhood, work, family, relationships, etc. from our spiritual selves. With this group, it was clear that these parts of our lives were integrated with the spiritual just as much as the dedicated time of prayer, contemplation, and Mass. As the small group leader, the friendships, the insights and vulnerability, and the time spent in prayer together and for each other were precious. Being a leader of the group was a stretch experience, and I learned a lot from the experience. I look forward to continuing to participate in similar groups in the future.

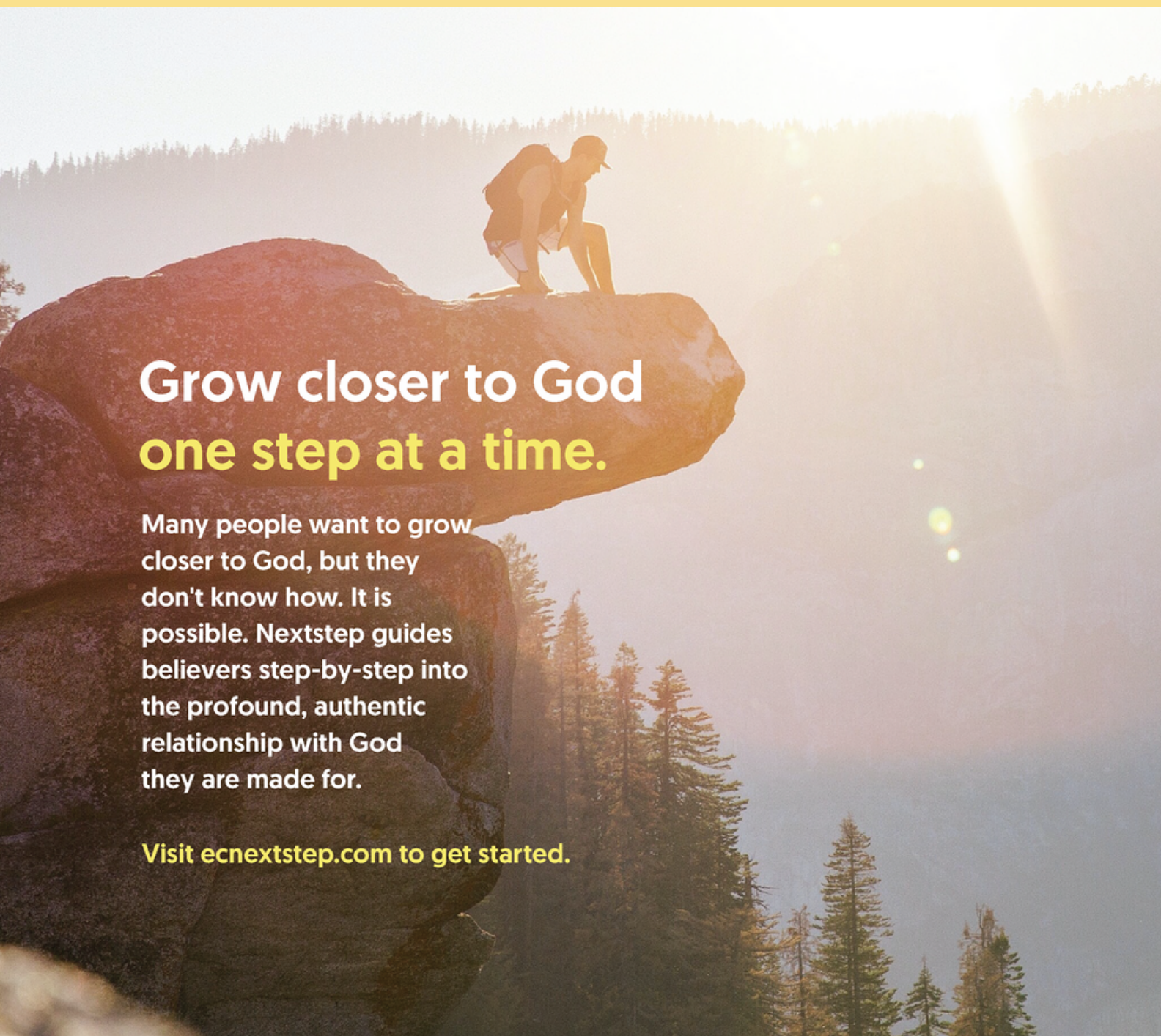
- Amy Lawrence, small group leader

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Having faith means drawing support from the faith of your brothers and sisters, even as your own faith serves as a support for the faith of others.”

Pope Benedict XVI
World Youth Day 2011, Madrid



A hiker with a backpack is silhouetted against a bright, hazy sunrise over a forested mountain range. The hiker is crouching on a large, dark rock. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, with lens flare effects from the sun.

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