



Simone Weil House

Catholic Worker & Public Household

LIVING COMMUNION INFO SESSIONS

The Whys and Hows of Interest-Free Lending within Church/School Communities

In Partnership with Notre Dame Federal Credit Union

Thursday, March 26

5-6pm Pacific via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Monday, March 30

6-7pm Pacific via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Everyone is welcome! And, invite your pastor and parish council! Meeting will include the Living Communion organizers, an NDFCU representative, and folks who have borrowed.

The **Living Communion Initiative** is a community of communities living as the Body of Christ through practical Scriptural frameworks for treating each other like (God's) family. We start by participating in the ultimate expression of God's familial love in Christ – redemption – through the Biblical obligation to prevent and redeem each other's precarious (interest-bearing) debt.

To date, we are 4 communities including two new parishes, in South Bend, IN and Steubenville, OH, who have made about 30 interest-free loans over four years.

THIS SPRING/SUMMER... the Living Communion Initiative will introduce a new cohort of parishes, schools, and other Christian communities to the practice of redemptive lending.

Setting the Context (optional): We start with a [free, 5-week, online class](#) - *Liturgy and Communion Economy* - This will help to open our eyes to see the Body of Christ as a living, mystical and social organism by opening Scripture to see how its economic dimension has been lived and developed over Judeo Christian history. The emphasis will be on uncovering possibilities for an economy of communion in our own parishes and neighborhoods.

- **5 weeks, starting April 16** (originally developed with Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life)

Roadmap and Training: After the class, we'll train communities ready to move forward in the specifics of the redemptive lending model. The training will prepare them to partner with Notre Dame Federal Credit Union to offer *0 interest* loans—initiated and administered by NDFCU but processed and guaranteed within the community—to prevent and redeem interest-bearing debt.

– The class and training are free, and the model involves no costs to parishes or individuals –

Read more at www.simoneweilhouse.org/for-parishes/. Contact us at simoneweilhouse@gmail.com.

Stories from Current Communities

L. was in a car accident last year that left him with high medical bills. Unable to access a reputable bank due to his lack of credit, he accepted a high interest credit card offer he received in the mail. He quickly became buried in debt at 38% interest. We were able to refinance his debt at 0% interest, with someone he knew from volunteering at a parish food pantry as his guarantor.

J. contracted long COVID and was unable to work for over a month. The loan he received through this project allowed him to stay in his apartment while he recovered and also funded professional development opportunities. This training allowed him to secure a new, well-paying job upon his recovery.

S. who was formerly homeless got a job opportunity in the same industry she had worked in previously. In order to make this job sustainable, she needed a car for her commute (and her credit was poor after her divorce several years ago). We were able to make a loan, guaranteed by a community member, that allowed her to purchase a used car. She has now been happily and stably at that job for a few years!

C. is in his mid-20s and, thinking he could beat the credit card companies at their game, accepted a credit card offer that had 0% interest for a year before it spiked. He does seasonal work and overestimated what his income would be, leaving him with a maxed out, now high-interest credit card. We were able to refinance that with a 0 interest loan that will allow him to actually pay off the full balance within a few years.