

# Cornerstone results in growing Bible study program led by Randolph parishioner

By HENRY HOLDEN

**RANDOLPH** Shannon Civetta grew up with Bible Study as part of her life and believes that God has been guiding her. When she saw what a group of faithful Catholics could do studying God's Word each week for two hours, the seed was planted. She thought wouldn't it be great if Resurrection Parish offered this?

The seed began to grow during her Cornerstone Experience in 2009. "During the course of 26 hours, God "called me by name"

and introduced me to the beauty of my new community in Resurrection," said Civetta. "He gave me — an only child — 26 sisters who would support me if I tried something new."

"God gave me the courage to talk about Bible Study with my new sisters," said Civetta. "Finally, I had enough confidence to ask our pastor for permission to start a short Bible study." In 2010, she ran four "helicopter tours" — The Quick Journey through the Bible, the story of Salvation history. At least 75 parishioners attended and interest grew,

Civetta has now completed six full-years of Bible study that covered the Old Testament books, a Gospel, and the Acts of the Apostles, with a growing group of people from four parishes. The most recently completed study was of the Blessed Mother.

"The materials speak to your heart, not in a theological way," said Civetta. "You don't have to be a theologian to run the program, and you don't have to be a theologian to understand it. We're not studying for the sake of studying. If we are doing that we might as well study the French Revolution. We're studying to become closer to the Lord and bring others in to do the same. If we're not doing that then we're missing the point."

The participants get a homework assignments which requires answering questions and responding on the study day. "The day of the meeting we begin with some fellowship which is a big part of evangelizing and building relationships," said Civetta. "Then we discuss what we did at home. We break into small groups of 10 to 15 people and discuss the questions. "What did you think, or 'I didn't understand

that, etc.' We have response sheets from the company to keep us on track. Each group has a facilitator. Then we have a video-based teacher to solidify the things that we learned.

Since it is a Catholic study in almost every lesson we are sent to a part of the Catechism to support Scripture."

Civetta has helped bring the Word of God to other parishes. "I met a friend in Target one day and she asked me if I could bring the program to Notre Dame of Mount Carmel, my former parish. I invited people I know from to St. Matthew in Ranadolph, and St. Therese in Succasunna. They came and asked me if I could start a

study in their parish so I helped them launch their own Bible study."

Civetta is now an independent contractor for the Bible program. "I don't make a commission, I just help set up programs," she said.

In 2013 Civetta had the opportunity to speak to all religious formation directors of the diocese, more than 130 faithful, at a diocesan conference about the joys and fruits of starting Scripture studies. Civetta said, "I was working with the diocesan Catechetical Conference and was asked if I would speak about Bible study to the faith formation people that attended."

Six years later, Civetta wonders, What if she hadn't answered God's call?

"I believe the true power of the Cornerstone sometimes goes untapped," Civetta said. "The family that grows from sharing our stories on team is extraordinary, but it's how we answer God's call and use our "renewed spirit" that can truly transform others. This program has absolutely changed and deepened my faith from the time my mother took me to the Bible study until now."



**Shannon Civetta**

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## SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEEK OF MARCH 22

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

*Year B Readings*

1. Jer 31:31-34
2. Heb 5:7-9
3. Jn 12:20-33

<b>Mon.</b>	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 / Jn 8:1-11
<b>Tue.</b>	Nm 21:4-9 / Jn 8:21-30
<b>Wed.</b>	[Annunciation of the Lord] Is 7:10-14, 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38
<b>Thu.</b>	Gn 17:3-9 / Jn 8:51-59
<b>Fri.</b>	Jer 20:10-13 / Jn 10:31-42
<b>Sat.</b>	Ez 37:21-28 / Jn 11:45-56

## Bishop to lead summer trip to lake region of Italy

Bishop Serratelli will be the spiritual director of a trip this summer to the lake region of Italy.

The trip, "The Natural Beauty of Italy's Lake Region and its Religious and Cultural Heritage" will be from July 20 to 28. It will also include visits to Lugano, Switzerland, Genoa, Portofino and Milan in Italy.

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