

Guide for Participants

PERSONAL REFLECTION/Prayer

The Church is the community of the baptized who are brothers and sisters to each other in the faith. The Church is not a building but 'is' mission (Synod Report, #8a). All women and men, lay and ordained, have something to offer to build up the body of Christ (cf. Eph. 4: 12, 15-16).

Question 1: How do we become a Church that listens to everyone? How do we discern the voice of the Spirit as we listen to our hearts and one another? What gets in the way?

"As members of the faithful People of God, all the baptized are co-responsible for mission, each according to his or her vocation, competence, and experience. . . Co-responsibility is for mission and "must be the criterion" for all structures of the Church (Synod Report, #18, a, b) (cf. 1 Cor. 12:4-31). "Synodality grows when each member is involved in processes and decision-making for the mission of the Church." (#18, e).

Question 2: Having listened to the Spirit, how do we engage all the baptized in Christ's mission? What gets in the way?

Review: What are the fruits of my prayer? What do I want to share?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The First Round

- Share the fruits of one's prayer (3 minutes each)
- Listen carefully to the contributions of others
- No discussions. Questions for clarification only.
- Take notes

Silence

- How have you been moved during the first round?
- What struck you? Any moments of comfort or discomfort?
- Take notes

The Second Round

- What emerged in your heart and mind during the time of silence? (2 minutes each)
- No one is obliged to speak. Share spontaneously.
- No discussions.
- Do not bring up what one may have forgotten to say in the first round.
- Helpful questions:
 - How was I affected by what I heard?
 - Is there a common thread? Something missing?
 - Did a particular sharing touch me?
 - Any insights? What is it?
 - Where did I experience a sense of harmony with others as we shared?
- Is anything of unity emerging?

Silence

- How was I moved during the second round?
- Are key points emerging in the group?
- Take notes

The Third Round

- Share what emerged from the previous time of silence. (1 minute each)
- Take note of how the Holy Spirit may be moving the group.

Review and Report

- Review and reflect on how the conversation proceeded.
- Decide on the main points to report from the conversation.

Additional Notes/Thoughts:

