

Conversations in the Spirit

Template for Parish Meetings for November 2024

Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky

Primary Question: How might your parish be organized to encourage full and active participation and draw forth the gifts of others for the common good?

	Welcome each participant, sign-in, name tag and invitation to silence.
15 minutes	Preparation time in silence. “When you are ready open the paper and reflect on the question.” Feel free to write your responses on the sheet.
5 minutes	Enthronement of Scripture on prepared prayer table
5 minutes	Welcome , Introduction to Conversation Event
5 minutes	Read Isaiah 25:6-8, twice in both Spanish and English – share with your neighbor what you “heard”.
5 minutes	Ice breaker Question: “By virtue of your baptism, do you feel you have a voice in the direction of your parish? Why or why not?” pause and share
10 minutes	Purpose: 1) Train parish delegates in synodal process 2) Learn method of Conversations in the Spirit 3) Assess ecclesial structures (parish, deanery, diocese etc.) using the method of conversations in the Spirit.
5 minutes	Divide into language groups with facilitators. Facilitators will choose timekeeper and notetaker as well as review ground rules and note sheet.
60 minutes	Groups will move together between rounds, coordinator to manage time First Round: Each participant gets 2 minutes to share their response to question. Take a breath pause between each speaker. Silence for 3 minutes – What moved you from the group responses? Second Round: Each participant gets 1 minute to share what they heard from first round. How have I been moved? What struck me? Points of comfort or discomfort? Breath pause between speakers. Silence for 3 minutes – How do you feel the Spirit is moving the group? Third Round: Each participant gets 1 minute to share how the Spirit is moving <u>the group</u> . Note taker will refer to notes sheet which is used during this round. (Listen for convergences, divergences, recommendations). Pause between speakers and notes taken. Review notes as a group.
10 minutes	Gather into large group – each table share one thing from their experience of conversations in the Spirit with large group. Collect note sheets and give to coordinators.
10 minutes	Review – global synod, impact on parish, deanery, diocese – where can you use Conv. In Spirit? Next steps: plan parish experience in November, we will gather again in January 2025 to assess where we are on the journey.
5 minutes	Thank you and group prays the Adsumus together.

Adapted from IEM CiS Training with Bob Choiniere

Opening Prayer

Synod Parish Training for Conversations in the Spirit
Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky

On this mountain the Lord of the universe will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich foods filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 25:6-8

(Instrumentum Laboris, Introduction)





STEPS OF CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT

- Preparation: Prayer and Reflection on Question(s)
- 3 Rounds of Listening and Speaking
- Each person speaks and addresses question
- Silence
- Each person responds to what moved them
- Silence
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to us or calling us to?
- Notes are taken in the 3rd round, approved and shared.

Adapted from IEM training for CIS by Robert Choiniere



The conversation in the Spirit

A dynamic of discernment in the synodal Church



Silence, prayer and listening to the Word of God

PERSONAL PREPARATION

By entrusting oneself to the Father, conversing in prayer with the Lord Jesus and listening to the Holy Spirit, each one prepares his or her own contribution to the question about which he or she is called to discern.

«Taking the word and listening»

Each person takes turns speaking from his or her own experience and prayer, and listens carefully to the contribution of others.



Silence and Prayer



«Making space for others & the Other»

From what the others have said, each one shares what has resonated most with him or her or what has aroused the most resistance in him or her, allowing himself or herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit: "When, listening, did my heart burn in my chest?"

Silence and Prayer

«Building together»

Together we dialogue on the basis of what emerged earlier in order to discern and gather the fruit of the conversation in the Spirit: to recognize intuitions and convergences; to identify discordances, obstacles and new questions; to allow prophetic voices to emerge.




It is important that everyone can feel represented by the outcome of the work.

"To what steps is the Holy Spirit calling us together?"



Fynal prayer of thanksgiving

www.synod.va
www.synodresources.org
www.prayforthesynod.org

 [synod.va](https://www.instagram.com/synod.va)
 [synod_va](https://twitter.com/synod_va)
 [synod.va](https://www.facebook.com/synod.va)



GROUND RULES

- Everyone in the conversation is expected to participate. We are all participants.
- Only one person may speak at a time. All are asked to actively listen with an open heart to what every person shares.
- There is no cross-talk or interruption when someone is speaking.
- Time limits are respected. The timekeeper will provide a 30 second warning and will also let each person know when the time limit is reached. You can finish your thought when time is called. No participant is required to use all their allotted time.
- Conversations are confidential. You are responsible for your sharing.

ROLE OF FACILITATOR

- **GUIDE** Accompany a group of 5-7 in a 60 minute Conversation in the Spirit.
- **WELCOME** Create a welcoming and prayerful space. Establish order of speakers.
- **SCRIPT** Follow the script for introduction, three rounds of sharing, and evaluation.
- **GUIDELINES** Keep the conversation on track using ground rules.
- **TIMEKEEPING** Be sure that each participant adheres to the time limits.
- **SILENCE** Observe times of prayerful silence between rounds.
- **NOTE-TAKING** Using the note taking sheet, scribe open notes during third round only.

Adapted from IEM training for CiS by Robert Choiniere

Conversations in the Spirit

Note Taking

Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky

- Notes are taken only after the final round
- Listen for: how the Spirit is moving
 - Convergences
 - Divergences
 - Recommendations
- Seek agreement of group before finalizing
- Notes will be shared with larger group.

Our notes:

Preparing for your Parish Conversations in the Spirit Training

It is not enough to have a synod; you must be a synod. The Church needs intense internal sharing: a living dialogue between the Pastors and between the Pastors and the faithful.

(Pope Francis, Address for the Audience with the Major Archbishop, the Metropolitans and the Permanent Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, 5 July, 2019)

Materials Needed for Parish Training

- Name tags/markers
- Pens
- Sign-in sheet
- Primary Question on folded sheet of paper

Handouts in packet: (in both Spanish and English)

- Opening prayer/scripture Isaiah 25:6-8
- Conversations in the Spirit – Synod handout
- Steps of Conversation in the Spirit
- Ground Rules/Role of facilitator
- Note taking sheet
- Agenda
- Final Prayer Adsumus

Refreshments

Participant packet handouts and facilitator materials will be posted on the diocesan website:

<https://cdlex.org/synodality/#>

Resources: Father Robert Dueweke rdueweke@gmail.com and Kathy Mattone kathymattone@gmail.com

Vatican Synod Website www.synod.va All resources, daily updates from Synod etc.

Ignatian Encounter Ministry Conversations in the Spirit Training – on-line 3 sessions 90 minutes total, \$4.00 per person.

<https://www.ignatianencounterministry.org/>

School for Synodality – free on-line training and resources – have facilitator courses in Oct/Nov (Wednesdays at 1 pm ET, October 30, November 6, 13)

<https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/>

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for an ecclesial assembly of governance or discernment (thus synodal)

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synod 2021-2023, we propose to use this simplified version, so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray more easily.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we
gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us, make
Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let
us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong
path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find
in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and
what is right.
All this we ask of You, who are at work in
every place and time, in the communion
of the Father and the Son, forever and
ever. Amen.

Title revised from Latin, to have a proper *incipit*, different from the *Adsumus Dominus Sancte Spiritus*. The *Caeremoniale Episcoporum* 1984ss., n. 1173, only proposes the use of the *Adsumus* but does not give the text. The German version *Das Zeremoniale für die Bischöfe*, n. 1188, gives a German translation based on the Latin text of the *Acta Synodalia* of the Council, vol. I/1, p. 159.