

PART II: SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

In this part, participants are asked to keep in mind **THIS WEEK'S THEMES:**
'CELEBRATION' 'ECUMENISM' and 'AUTHORITY & PARTICIPATION'

CELEBRATION "Walking together" is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community? How do they inspire the most important decisions? How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy? What space is given to participating in the ministries of lector and acolyte?

ECUMENISM The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey. What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations? What do we share and how do we journey together? What fruits have we drawn from walking together? What are the difficulties? How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?

AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church. How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken? How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church? How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice? How are evaluations conducted and by whom? How are lay ministries and the responsibility of lay people promoted? Have we had fruitful experiences of synodality on a local level? How do synodal bodies function at the level of the local Church (Pastoral Councils in parishes and dioceses, Presbyteral Council, etc.)? How can we foster a more synodal approach in our participation and leadership?

STEP 1: Everyone takes equal turns to share the fruit of his or her prayer, in relation to the reflection questions circulated beforehand. **There is no dialogue** in this round and all **participants simply listen deeply** to each person and attend **to how the Holy Spirit is moving:**

**within oneself,
within the person speaking,
and in the group as a whole.**

In this step, please look at the three themes in turn, one at a time.



STEP 2: A time of silence to note one's interior movements.

STEP 3: Some dialogue may now occur within the group with care taken that spiritual attentiveness be maintained. Here, each individual is asked to respond to what someone else has said in step 1, for instance by seeking further clarification, expressing agreement or expanding what the other person said.

STEP 4: A time of silence to assimilate what has been said.

STEP 5: Participants reflect on what seems to be resonating in the conversation and what moved them most deeply. New insights and even unresolved questions are also noted.

STEP 6: Spontaneous prayers of gratitude can conclude the conversation.

END WITH THE OFFICIAL SYNOD PRAYER

COMMUNION

PARTICIPATION

MISSION

THE SYNOD 2021-2023

DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL



THIRD MEETING

**'CELEBRATION' 'ECUMENISM'
and 'AUTHORITY & PARTICIPATION'**



INTRODUCTION

The Synod poses the following fundamental question:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.”

- How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church?
- What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”? (PD, 26)

In responding to this question, we are invited to:

Recall our experiences: What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind?

Re-read these experiences in greater depth: What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?

Gather the fruits to share: Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

In order to respond to these questions, we shall have **FOUR MEETINGS**, each divided into **TWO PARTS**.



The **First Part** will be a **Lectio Divina**, a Sacred Reading of a Scripture text. The text chosen is the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24.13-35. Sections of the text will be reflected upon over the four meetings. The purpose of the Lectio Divina is to create the sacred space and time of prayer and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying. The Spirit will create the necessary environment for what follows.

The **Second Part** will be a **Spiritual Conversation**. This is the time when each participant is given the time to share the fruit of their prayer. It is also a time of silence when all participants listen deeply to the interior movement of the Holy Spirit within them. Dialogue and conversation also take place during which everyone is encouraged to share what moved them most deeply. The purpose of this part is to identify what resonated within the conversation and the recurring themes within the group.

THIS WEEK'S THEMES:

‘CELEBRATION’ ‘ECUMENISM’ and ‘AUTHORITY & PARTICIPATION’

PART I: LECTIO DIVINA

Step 1: LECTIO

Read the passage - The passage is read twice by different people. The first time, just get a feel for the passage. When you read the passage a second time, note the word or phrase to which your attention is being drawn. It is God drawing your attention to this word or phrase. The Holy Spirit has a special message just for you in this moment.

LUKE 24:28-35

²⁸ *When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on;*

²⁹ *but they pressed him to stay with them saying, 'It is nearly evening, and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.*

³⁰ *Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them.*

³¹ *And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight.*

³² *Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'*

³³ *They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions,*

³⁴ *who said to them, 'The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon.'*

³⁵ *Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.*

Step 2: MEDITATIO

Meditate on the word or phrase that stood out to you. How is God speaking to you through this word or phrase? Is there an invitation? Is there a call? Does a memory surface? What image comes to mind? What feelings are evoked? Take your time and allow God to speak to you in the depths of your soul. Notice that God is speaking to you personally about your life right now.

Step 3: ORATIO

Respond to God who has been speaking to you. What is your response? What is your prayer? Allow your own words to come from a place deep within where the Spirit dwells. *(Please indicate when you are ready to speak your prayer aloud to the other members of the table group).*

Step 4: CONTEMPLATIO

Still yourself and rest in the loving embrace of your Maker. Words are never sufficient to express all that stirs within. Simply be present to the Sacred One. Savour the silence. Connect with the Presence deep in your soul. When distractions occur, return to your chosen word or phrase and repeat it to re-centre.

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PAUSE FOR A BREAK
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