

PART II: SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

*In this part, participants are asked to keep in mind THIS WEEK'S THEMES:
'COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY' and 'LISTENING'*

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY:

In the Church and society, we are on the same road.

- In our local Church, who are those who "walk together"?
- Who are those who seem further apart?
- How are we called to grow as companions?
- What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

LISTENING: *Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.*

- How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?
- How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people?
- What facilitates or inhibits our listening?
- How well do we listen to those on the peripheries?
- How is the contribution of consecrated men and women integrated?
- What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own?
- What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

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.**



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



FIRST MEETING

**'COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY'
and 'LISTENING'**



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:

‘COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY’ and ‘LISTENING’

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:24:13-18

¹³ *Now that very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,*

¹⁴ *and they were talking together about all that had happened.*

¹⁵ *And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side;*

¹⁶ *but their eyes were prevented from recognising him.*

¹⁷ *He said to them, 'What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?' They stopped, their faces downcast.*

¹⁸ *Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.'*

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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