

Dialogue II

How do we express ourselves in the Church?

Let's introduce ourselves

- Each person briefly introduces themselves.
- Activity to put people at ease: each person is asked to describe their favourite food.
- Go around the table briefly to ask each participant how they feel and validate it.

Introduction

In today's meeting, we will reflect on speaking out in our Christian community, our movement, our diocese. Speaking out requires courage to express oneself freely and in charity. In an exercise of speaking out, we will discern together what allows or hinders it.

Time for Prayer

Let's take the time to arrive as we are, let's take the time to centre ourselves on our breathing, let's unite our spirit to our body, without judging ourselves; let's dispose ourselves to hear the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing in us and uniting us to each other. Let us be willing to enter into an attitude of listening and discernment.

Let us recite together the prayer to the Holy Spirit for the beginning of a synodal meeting.

Prayer for the Beginning of a Synodal Meeting

Here we are before you, Holy Spirit; in your name we are gathered.

You, our only counselor, come to us, dwell with us, deign to dwell in our hearts.

Teach us where to go, show us how we should walk together.

We who are weak and sinful, do not allow ourselves to cause disorder.

Let us not be led astray by ignorance, nor let partiality influence our actions.

May we find our unity in you, without straying from the path of truth and justice, advancing together towards eternal life.

We ask this of you, who act in all times and places, in the communion of the Father and the Son, for ever and ever. Amen

Word of God

Colossians 3:13-17

Support one another, and if one has reason to complain about the other, forgive each other. As Christ forgave you, so forgive yourself. But above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfection. And may the peace of Christ, to which you have been called to be one body, reign in your hearts. And be grateful. May the word of Christ dwell among you abundantly; educate and exhort one another in all wisdom, in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual hymns, singing to God in your hearts under the inspiration of grace. And whatever you do, word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Time of silence)

Song: On Eagles Wings (John Michael Talbot)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBQKmL7Gq4>

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord
"My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture
you
And famine will bring you no fear

Under His wings my refuge
His faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you
Near you death shall not come.

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

And hold you in the palm of His hand.

First round of dialogue (twenty minutes)

You identify an experience where you were able to express yourself or not in the Church.

How do you express yourself in your parish, in the different teams, committees, movements, in your diocese (what happens in you when you let this experience of speaking out come)

(Time of silence)

Everyone has an equal time to speak. There is no discussion during this round: each participant listens deeply to what the other is expressing, in an attitude of listening to what the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us in ourselves, through the person who is expressing himself.

Second round of dialogue (twenty minutes)

Do you feel confident enough to express yourself freely in the Church? If so, how is it going? If not, what are the obstacles to speaking out?

(Time of silence)

In a second round, the participants express what struck them most in what was shared, in the words expressed as well as in the silences (an attitude of attentive and spiritual listening is kept in view, not confrontation or debate) but a respectful dialogue.

Third round of dialogue (twenty minutes)

Through what has just been shared, the Holy Spirit whispers to our hearts a direction, a conversion both in listening and in speaking. What is the spirit saying to our Church?

(Time of silence)

Finally, in the third round, the participants reflect on what seems to emerge, to surface, what resonated during the conversation and which touched them, moved them and made sense to them.

Conclusion

Go around the table and ask participants to summarize in a few words what they remember from the workshop on "How do we express ourselves in Church" and how they found the process. A secretary records these comments and prepares a summary of the meeting's conclusions. (See the last page of this document for tips on writing your report).

Prayer of thanksgiving

Let us recite together Psalm 66

May God be gracious to us and bless us, and may his face shine upon us;

and your way will be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Let the peoples, God, give you thanks; let them give you thanks altogether!

Let the nations sing for joy, for you rule the world with justice; you rule the peoples with righteousness, on earth you lead the nations.

Let the peoples, God, give you thanks; let them give you thanks altogether!

The earth has yielded its fruit; God, our God, blesses us.

May God bless us, and may the whole earth adore him!

A time of gratitude

As you return home and think about what you have heard in these exchanges, in the presence of the Risen One, ask yourself today and in the days to come: What is rising in me? What is the call

that the Lord is placing in me? Perhaps you might catch yourself saying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

To write the meeting report

This report should not exceed 2 printed pages.

1. Describe the group that met: level of involvement in the church, membership (parishioners, religious, committee, service or movement members), young or old, homogeneous or diverse group, etc.
2. How did the process go: smoothly? with difficulty? Why did it happen? If you adapted it, how?
3. From the notes that were collected at the conclusion (after the third round of dialogue), present the main conclusions reached by the group: findings, sources of joy or sadness, awareness, proposals, hopes, etc.
4. Did the group members leave satisfied with the experience? Why or why not?

Please send your report to Mr. André Inkel.

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