



Dialogue 2 Outline

Feeling heard, listening with love and openness to others, and being able to express ourselves and our faith freely and charitably are of the utmost importance to journey together with each other and with the world around us.

How does the Holy Spirit inspire us when we communicate with each other in the Church and with others outside the Church?

If you are leading a meeting, you must refer to the Leader's Guide and familiarize yourself with the materials. Ensure you have a recorder to take notes during the meeting. The Leader than guides the group through the following steps:

1. **Ask each participant to briefly introduce themselves.**
2. **Introduction:**

We are meeting today, not to complete a survey or to evaluate the Church. Rather, this is an opportunity for us to listen, reflect and discuss how the Holy Spirit is enlightening our path today, and how we can journey together in communion, participation, and mission. You are invited to answer the questions and sub-questions according to your experience and what applies to you.

We will reflect on our experience of listening and expressing ourselves in and outside the Church. This includes in our parish, in our Catholic movements and associations, in our diocese; but also in our neighborhood and in our secular activities. It is precisely an exercise of communication that we will deepen this great theme of journeying together in our Church. All of us prepared ourselves for this meeting, we reflected on this question and are ready to come together to share our experiences and have a conversation.

3. **Prayer**

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

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

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

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.

4. **Word of God**

Now we will proclaim a gospel to help guide our discussion (when possible, please read from a Bible)

Mark, 7:31-37 Jesus left the territory of Tiro, and returned by Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, crossing the land of the Decapolis. A deaf man was brought to him, who had difficulty speaking, and he was asked to lay his hands on him. He took him aside from the crowd, put his fingers in his ears, and touched his tongue with his own saliva; then, raising his eyes to heaven, he sighed, and said: Ephphatha, that is to say, open yourself. Immediately his ears were open, his tongue loosened, and he spoke very well. Jesus told them not to tell anyone about it; but the more he recommended it to them, the more they published it. They were in the greatest astonishment, and said: He does everything wonderfully; even he makes the deaf hear, and the dumb speak.

5. **Sharing** (up to 20 minutes)

Identify an experience where you felt listened to, or not listened to in the Church; where you were able to express yourself freely, or felt suppressed in the Church. What does this experience bring out in you as joy and hope, or as a difficulty, an obstacle or a wound?

There is no discussion during this round. Each participant listens to what the other is expressing, with an attitude of listening to what the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us within ourselves, and through the person who is expressing himself or herself.

6. **Dialogue** (up to 20 minutes)

After listening to the experience of others, we ask ourselves: What space is there in our Church for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion? How well do we listen to those on the peripheries? What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own?

In this second round, the participants engage in a respectful dialogue where all opinions are heard. An attitude of attentiveness and spiritual listening is maintained. This is not an occasion for confrontation or debate. Rather, it is an opportunity to have a conversation about what struck us during the sharing and about where we are at. The sub-questions for this round are suggestions to guide the conversation. It is not necessary to answer each question specifically.

7. **Discernment** (up to 20 minutes)

What does the Holy Spirit whisper in us? What does He teach us about ourselves and our community? How does He direct us in developing our strengths? How does He guide us in discovering and cultivating our charism as individuals and as a member of the Body of the Church?

In this discernment round, the participants reflect on what seemed to emerge and resonate during the conversation, and what touched them, moved them, and made sense to them. We seek to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church through our dialogue.

8. **Conclusion**

Go around the table and ask participants to summarize in a few words what they are taking away from the dialogue and how they would answer, **“How does the Holy Spirit inspire us when we communicate with each other in the Church and with others outside the Church?”**.

The Leader will end the meeting by leading the group in prayer (*the **Our Father** or a prayer of your choice*).