

A stylized illustration of a sailboat with a blue hull and a yellow sail. The word "Synod" is written in a cursive font on the sail. The boat is sailing on blue waves. The background is a light gray.

Sharing our Joys and Sorrows

1st LISTENING GATHERING SYNODAL PATHWAY

MOMENT OF WELCOME

A warm welcome to everyone

We are all in the same boat – learning together

Simple format for the evening

Listening to understand

Our role as Animators

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Why are we here?

To plant dreams

To have a vision

To allow hope to flourish

To inspire trust

To bind wounds

To weave together relationships

To learn from one another

To create a bright resourcefulness that will

Enlighten our minds

Warm our hearts

And give strength to our hands



MOMENT OF INVITATION

You are warmly invited to

- Speak freely from the heart
- To listen deeply to one another with respect and confidentiality
- To agree that we hold sacred what is shared
- To share your experience – as much or as little as you are comfortable with
- To understand one another
- To listen to God's Spirit



MOMENT OF PRAYER

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



1st QUESTION FOR THIS EVENING

When you think about Church and
your experience, what brings joy?



You are invited to reflect quietly about this
before you respond

IN SMALL GROUPS

First share what brings you joy

Give each person time to share this

Listen to understand each other



When everyone has shared take time to write down what you want to share on a POST-IT note

Groups invited to DISPLAY this around the walls of the meeting space

TEA BREAK



An invitation to get a cuppa before we move on to our second question



You can walk around and view what people have written in the POST-IT notes



Music will play to call us back to our groups and settle into the quiet once more

BACK TO SMALL GROUPS – A SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

Luke 24: 13 - 19

2nd QUESTION FOR THIS EVENING



When you think about Church and your experience,
what brings sadness or disappointment?

You are invited to reflect quietly about this before you respond, and to consider what you would like to share

Music will play as we sit quietly

IN SMALL GROUPS

First share what brings you sadness or disappointment

Give each person time to share this

Listen to understand each other



When everyone has shared take time to write down what you want to share on a POST-IT note

Groups invited to DISPLAY this around the walls of the meeting space, before leaving the space

MOMENT OF THANKS



As we end this first listening experience I invite you to listen carefully to these words

*‘The joys and the hopes,
the griefs and the anxieties of the people of our time,
especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted,
these are the joys and hopes,
the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.’*

(From The Church in the Modern World paragraph 1 – Vatican 2 Documents)

Thank you

For taking part

For listening well

For sharing openly

For taking the risk of opening your heart



Let's Pray

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

I invite you to share a sign or gesture of PEACE.....



An Invitation to a 2nd Gathering

HOPES & FEARS

You are invited to gather again

Where we will share our hopes and fears.

Our date is.....March

The venue will be

We will start atand aim to end by

Please invite others to come along

