



## PARTICIPANT GUIDE YOUTH SESSION

*Pope Francis wants to hear from you!*

### **Respectful Communication Guidelines**

Please keep these guidelines in mind as you listen and share with respect for one another in your small group.

- 1) Listen respectfully and without judgment.
- 2) Allow an opportunity for everyone to speak.
- 3) Be an open-minded listener.
- 4) Pause briefly between speakers.
- 5) Sharing is optional.
- 6) Remember that we are here to listen and not to problem-solve or convince.
- 7) There is no topic off the table. Speak honestly.
- 8) Before speaking, say a prayer to the Holy Spirit for wisdom.
- 9) Remember that differences of opinion are good. We learn more from those who hold opinions different from our own.
- 10) “Be courageous in listening and courageous in speaking.” (*Vatican Handbook on the Synod*)

### **Gather in Prayer**

#### **Holy Spirit**

There's nothing worth more, that will ever come close  
No thing can compare, You're our living hope  
Your Presence Lord

I've tasted and seen, of the sweetest of loves  
Where my heart becomes free, and my shame is undone  
In Your Presence Lord

**Holy Spirit You are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your Glory God is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome by Your presence Lord**

**1 COR. 12:12-26** As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," any more than the head can say to the feet, "I do not need you." Even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable. We honor the members we consider less honorable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety which the more presentable already have.

God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to the lowly members, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy.

***What word or phrase stood out to you from the scripture reading?***

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***What might the Holy Spirit be trying to communicate to you from this reading?***

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***(All Together)*** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Round 2: Fruit of Encounters in the Periphery

Take a couple of minutes to reflect in silence on these questions. Again, you do not need to share on all the questions, but only those to which the Holy Spirit leads you. Read through all of them first and see where you are drawn to share.

After a time of silence, allow each person 2-3 minutes to speak. Anyone in the group can begin, and then continue in the same manner as the first round.

Once everyone has had a chance to share, discuss which one or two points could be shared with the larger group from these two rounds.

What is important to share from your encounter in the periphery? Please remember to respect the privacy of the person you encountered – share key takeaways without revealing their identity or private information.

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How did you feel reaching out to listen to someone who feels disconnected to the Church? Did you feel the Spirit moving in the conversation?

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If you have not had an encounter yet, who do you feel God has placed on your heart to encounter? What are your hopes for that conversation?

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“The Spirit shows us new things through what the Church calls ‘signs of the times.’ Discerning the signs of the times allows us to make sense of change. In interpreting and praying over events or trends in light of the Gospel, we can detect movements that reflect the values of God’s Kingdom or their opposite.

The discernment step allows us to ask: What is the Spirit telling us? ... Discerning what is and what is not of God, we begin to see where and how to act...How do we distinguish the spirits? They speak different languages; they use different ways to reach our hearts. The voice of God never imposes but proposes, whereas the enemy is strident, insistent, and even monotonous. The voice of God might correct us, but gently, always encouraging, consoling, giving us hope. The bad spirit on the other hand offers us dazzling illusions and tempting sensations, but they are fleeting. It exploits our fears and suspicions, and seduces us with wealth and prestige. If we ignore it, it responds with contempt and accusation, telling us: You’re worthless...

The voice of God opens your horizons, whereas the enemy pins you against a wall. Where the good spirit gives you hope, the bad spirit sows suspicion, anxiety, and finger-pointing. The good spirit appeals to my desire to do good, to help and to serve, and gives me strength to go forward on the right path. The bad spirit, conversely, closes me in on myself, and makes me rigid and intolerant. It is the spirit of fear and grievance. It makes me sad, fearful and irritable. Rather than freeing me, it enslaves me. Rather than opening me up to the present and the future, it encloses me in fear and resignation.

Learning to distinguish these two kinds of ‘voice’ allows us to choose the right path forward, which is not always the most obvious, and to avoid making decisions while trapped in past hurts or in fears of the future that risk immobilizing us.

## Round 3: What is the Spirit calling us to do?

Take a couple of minutes to reflect in silence on these questions. Again, you do not need to share about all the questions, but only those to which the Holy Spirit leads you. Read through all of them first and see where you are drawn to share.

What actions do you feel the Spirit is calling the Church to take – in your personal life, in our community, as a diocese, as a universal Church?

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What concrete, practical steps could be taken to move forward together as Church?

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How are you personally feeling called to put your gifts and talents at the service of these actions? (If you'd like, you may write your contact information on a notecard along with the area of ministry you'd like to be involved and submit that to the moderator at the end of this session.)

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After a time of silence, allow each person 2-3 minutes to speak. Anyone in the group can begin, and then continue in the same manner as the other rounds. Remember that participants may also write their comments on note cards if they feel uncomfortable or do not have a chance to share everything in this small group.

Once everyone has had a chance to share, discuss which one or two ideas could be shared with the larger group.

# PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. For the Synod 2021-2023, everyone is invited to pray this simplified version of the *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*.

**(All Together)** 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.



Diocese of  
OWENSBORO