



## PARISH CONSULTATION WITH SMALL GROUPS SESSION 3 HANDOUT

Focus Area 2 (Sessions 3 & 4): Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization.

### PRAYER

#### 1. 1 Corinthians 12: 12-18, 24-27, One Body, Many Parts

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. ... God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another.

If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.

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#### 2. Litany of Saints, abridged. Responses listed in bold.

- Holy Mary, Mother of God, **pray for us.**
- Saint Michael, **pray for us.**
- Holy Angels of God, **pray for us.**
- Saint John the Baptist, **pray for us.**
- Saint Joseph, **pray for us.**
- Saint Peter and Saint Paul, **pray for us.**
- Saint Andrew, **pray for us.**
- Saint Mary Magdalene, **pray for us.**
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch, **pray for us.**
- Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, **pray for us.**
- Saint Agnes, **pray for us.**
- Saint Augustine, **pray for us.**
- Saint Francis and Saint Dominic, **pray for us.**
- Saint John Vianney, **pray for us.**
- Saint Catherine of Siena, **pray for us.**
- Saint Teresa of Jesus, **pray for us.**
- All holy men and women, Saints of God, **pray for us.**
- Lord, be merciful, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**
- From all evil, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**
- From every sin, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**
- From everlasting death, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**
- By your Incarnation, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**
- By your Death and Resurrection, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**
- By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

The English translation and chant of the Litany of Saints from *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. (abridged)

## TOPIC 3A: WELCOMING PARISHES

### Foundational Topics

#### 1. Why a Church?

Jesus was born among us in order to save us. He also gathered a group of disciples and gave them his Holy Spirit to continue his work in the world.

#### 2. The Church is both human and divine. (Mt. 13:29-30)

The Church is a human institution, filled with human beings who are weak sinners. However, Jesus makes clear that the Church is his chosen instrument through which he will save humanity.

#### 3. Holiness reveals Christ's face in the world. (Mt. 5:16)

The true purpose of the Church is to generate holiness in her members, so they will continue the life of Jesus in the world.

#### 4. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic across space and time. (Jn. 17:20-21)

Jesus desires his Church to be one throughout the world. Through the Pope and the bishops, we are united in one faith and one worship with believers of every culture and nationality throughout history.

### The Church's Wisdom on Welcoming

#### 1. We invite others into the Church to encounter Jesus.

(Jn. 1:40-42)

From the beginning, we see the Church grows mainly through personal invitation. Each of us in our own way is called to invite others to encounter Jesus in his Church.

#### 2. We welcome those who need God. (Jas. 2:2-4)

Jesus regularly reached out to those who were on the margins of society and invited them to receive his healing and his mercy. Jesus tells us that we will be judged at the end on how we treated the least among us.

#### 3. We create a community where people experience being known and loved. (Jn. 13:34-35)

Jesus wants love for one another to be the mark of our Christian community. God created us for communion and wants us to experience that we are known and loved by others.

#### 4. Like Jesus, we invite others to forgiveness and new life.

(Jn. 8:10-11)

We are invited to imitate Jesus' welcoming of all people. This means learning to accompany those who are not yet fully living the Christian life and encouraging them to enter more deeply into full discipleship through his mercy.

#### 5. We are called to deeper community within the Body of Christ. (Acts 2:46-47)

To help each other grow in holiness, we have to find ways to get to know each other on a deeper level. Good friends and a strong community help us grow.

## TABLE DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

### 1. GENERAL GUIDELINES (read out loud by the table facilitator)

- My job as facilitator is simply to make sure everyone at the table has an opportunity to contribute, the time is shared amongst all table members, and the discussion stays on track. Table facilitators, as members of the small group, will be involved in the discussion and provide individual feedback. Table facilitators are not theologians or experts.
- For fruitful table discussions, please take into consideration that the Synod process is intended to recommend pastoral priorities for our Archdiocese that are both realistic (e.g., within the competence of the Archdiocese to implement) and consistent with the teachings of the Church.
- Please turn to the Discussion Questions & Feedback Forms for our two topics today.
  - If you feel comfortable doing so, please fill out the demographic information.
  - Table discussion questions are listed at the top. We are each invited to choose one or two of the questions on which to share.
  - Below that you will see some ideas for consideration. The ideas for consideration are provided to help us get started in our discussion and provide a framework to give feedback.
  - The bottom of the form is where we provide feedback. We are asked which of the ideas for consideration have worked for us individually, and which ideas the parish or Archdiocese should prioritize in the future. We can choose up to three ideas under each of these two sections. In the third section, we can each provide an idea of our own, up to 20 words.

### 2. RESPECTFUL DISCUSSION GUIDELINES (read out loud by the table scribe)

- Everyone's input is valued. We are here to listen to each other and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit with a disposition of the heart that we all have something to learn. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do." We are not here to debate. Expect differing viewpoints and presume the good will of the other.
- People may share personal experiences. Please be sensitive to this vulnerability and do not share others' private information outside this group.
- Feedback forms do not have names. In addition, scribes have been asked to keep your responses confidential.

### 3. PROCESS FOR SHARING (read out loud by a table volunteer)

- To allow everyone an opportunity to share, we will proceed as follows:
  - The table facilitator will share first. After the facilitator is done, he or she invites another to share. You can invite anyone at the table, whether they are next to you or across from you. After that person has shared, they invite another. We will do this until everyone at the table has been asked to share.
  - All are encouraged to share but no one should feel pressured to speak. If you don't want to share, simply say "pass," and ask another to share.
  - We ask you to listen and not immediately respond to someone's sharing. After everyone has had an opportunity to share, the facilitator will initiate an open discussion of the question (time permitting).
- The facilitator will now read the discussion questions out loud and allow some quiet time to consider the questions and ideas for consideration. Then the facilitator will share first.

## TOPIC 3B: COLLABORATION IN PARISH MINISTRY

**1. Parishes are the local mission center, providing an encounter with Christ and his Church.** (CCC, no. 2179)

The parish is the place where people come to share and support each other in the Christian life, to be formed spiritually, and most importantly, to worship God together in the Eucharist.

**2. Everyone has a role to play in the Church's mission.** (1 Cor. 12:12-13)

Everyone is important in the Church. We together – bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laity – share in the mission of the Church as different parts of one body.

**3. Everyone has been given gifts for the mission.** (Lumen Gentium, no. 33)

It is important to discern the particular supernatural gifts that have been given personally by God and how he wants us to use them. The Bible calls these gift "charisms," recognizing they come from the Holy Spirit.

**4. We work together to fulfill Christ's mission.**

The Council of Jerusalem provides a model of collaboration to serve the mission of the Church. We are seeking to follow this same model in our Synod. First, consult to identify the current pressing challenges and opportunities to faithfully and joyfully fulfill the mission Jesus gave to us to "Go and make disciples." Second, study the Tradition and teachings of the Church to see how they address these challenges and opportunities. Third, bring together the appropriate leadership to make a plan. Forth, communicate the plan and empower God's people to work collaboratively to bring the light received from the Holy Spirit to fulfill the mission.

**5. All are called to holiness.**

Saint Paul writes, "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

**6. You are called!**

Meditation by Saint John Henry Newman:

God knows me and calls me by name.

God has created me to do Him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission – I may never know it in this life, but I will be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good, I shall do his work.