**Synod Listening Session for Young People**



**Pastorate of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Louis**

**Archdiocese of Baltimore**

**PRE-GATHERING**

* The team designs a handout for each participant that includes the scripture readings and the reflection questions.

**HOSPITALITY**

**WELCOME**: Session Emcee

* Explanation of Synod
* Outline the session process

**PRAYER**: Hearing the Voice of People; Hearing the Voice of God

* Call to worship: Your voice, your gifts are important
* Session emcee (or participant) reads 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (many parts, all one body)
* Everyone has different gifts & is here tonight with a different story, different journey
* Wordle Activity: Ask the participants: How would you describe your faith?
  + offer sample words- non existent, weak, it’s my life, uncertain, joyful, personal, etc. Participants pick 3 words or others that describe their faith and they add them to the wordle.
  + The emcee offers comments based on the wordle how we experience faith so differently at times (many parts) – and sometimes so much the same (one body).

**ROUND 1 Four Corners Activity and Sharing**

* The emcee will read three or four statements and the participants vote with their feet by moving to the corner of the room labelled with strongly disagree, disagree, agree, and strongly agree after each statement.
  + I feel welcomed in the Church.
  + Being Catholic is important to me.
  + I am convinced that God loves me.
* Each corner has a recorder and facilitator
* The session emcee offers the first statement.
* Once the participants move to their preferred corner, the facilitator asks each person why they chose that response.
* The session emcee asks for one person from each corner to share their comments.
* The session emcee then does the second statement. And the third as time allows.

**ROUND 2 - Small Groups - with recorder and facilitator**

* Participants move to tables with a facilitator and recorder already at each table.
* Participants get their session handout.
* The session emcee (or a participant) reads Scripture: Matt 5:13-16 (light of world)
* The table facilitator invites everyone to pause and reflect on the scripture reading and the reflection question:

***What do you find valuable or encouraging in the Catholic Church today?***

* Participants can write down key insights or thoughts in their session handout.
* Participants take equal turns to share the fruit of his or her prayer and insights in relation to the reflection question.
* There is no discussion until everyone has spoken. All participants simply listen deeply to each person and attend to how the Holy Spirit is moving within oneself, within the person speaking, and in the group as a whole. Participants can choose to pass, rather then share.
* Then participants are asked: What did you hear in our sharing that spurs your own thinking? Captures your attention? Or perhaps provides a new perspective for you?

* The table facilitator invites everyone to pause and reflect on the second reflection question:

***What do you find discouraging or disheartening in the Catholic Church today?***

* Participants can write down key insights or thoughts in their session handout.
* Participants take equal turns to share the fruit of his or her prayer and insights in relation to the reflection question.
* There is no discussion until everyone has spoken. All participants simply listen deeply to each person and attend to how the Holy Spirit is moving within oneself, within the person speaking, and in the group as a whole. Participants can choose to pass.
* Then participants are asked: What did you hear in our sharing that spurs your own thinking? Captures your attention? Or perhaps provides a new perspective for you?

* The table facilitator invites everyone to pause and reflect on the scripture reading and the third reflection question:

***What do you need or want from the Church? AND What do you want to say to the Pope?***

* Participants can write down key insights or thoughts in their session handout.
* Participants take equal turns to share the fruit of his or her prayer and insights in relation to the reflection question.
* There is no discussion until everyone has spoken. All participants simply listen deeply to each person and attend to how the Holy Spirit is moving within oneself, within the person speaking, and in the group as a whole. Participants can choose to pass.
* Then participants are asked: What did you hear in our sharing that spurs your own thinking? Captures your attention? Or perhaps provides a new perspective for you?

**ROUND 3 - Large Group Report**

* The session emcee asks each table group to provide a synopsis of their conversations.
* The session emcee then asks the large group: “what are you hearing in our discussion?”

**CLOSING PRAYER**

* The session emcee or designate offers a brief closing prayer, thanking the young people for their participation and honest insights.

**POST GATHERING**

* The team meets to collate the table responses and develops a report that should be shared for incorporation into the parish report, which goes to the diocese.
* The team should review the responses, identify implications arising from the discussions, and propose action strategies for their particular parish as appropriate.
* The team should consider inserting a “Thank You” in the parish bulletin and/or social media platforms acknowledging the participation by young people in the Synod process.