

Dialogue III

How do we celebrate in Church?

Introduction

In this workshop, we will share our experiences of celebration in the Church. The strength to walk together in the truth of love comes from our listening to the Word and the Eucharist: the centre and summit of Christian life. We will seek together to answer this question: how do our liturgical celebrations inspire our missionary action?

Time of Prayer

Let us take the time to arrive with what we are, let us take the time to centre ourselves on our breathing, let us unite our spirit to our body, without judging ourselves; let us dispose ourselves to hear the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing in us and uniting us to each other. Let us be willing to enter into an attitude of listening and discernment.

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

Prayer for the Beginning of a Synodal Meeting

Here we are before you, Holy Spirit; in your name we are gathered.

You, our only counselor, come to us, dwell with us, deign to dwell in our hearts.

Teach us where to go, show us how we should walk together.

We who are weak and sinful, do not allow ourselves to cause disorder.

Let us not be led astray by ignorance, nor let partiality influence our actions.

May we find our unity in you, without straying from the path of truth and justice, advancing together towards eternal life.

We ask this of you, who act in all times and places, in the communion of the Father and the Son, for ever and ever. Amen

Word of God

Acts of the Apostles 2, 41-47

Those who accepted his word were baptized; and in that day the number of the disciples increased by about three thousand souls. They persevered in the teaching of the apostles, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Fear took hold of everyone, and many wonders and miracles were done by the apostles. Everyone who believed was in one place, and they had everything in common. They sold their properties and their goods, and they divided the proceeds among all, according to the needs of each one. They were all together at the temple every day, they broke bread in the houses, and ate their food with joy and simplicity of heart, praising God, and finding favour with all the people. And the Lord added daily those who were being saved to the Church.

(Time of silence)

Song: I Just Want to Praise my Lord (Hillsong Worship)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9mR2wyyRlw>

I just want to praise the Lord
I just want to dance and celebrate yes
I just want to bless my God
Lift my hands and sing

Heaven and the earth proclaim
All the nations bow before You
All creation shouts Your praise
The majesty honour and glory of God

First round of dialogue (twenty minutes)

Can you identify an experience of celebration that has been inspiring for you and your community and that has guided you in your mission in the Church?

(Time of silence)

Everyone has an equal time to speak. There is no discussion for this round: each participant listens deeply to what the other is expressing, in an attitude of listening to what the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us in us, through the person who is expressing himself.

Second round of dialogue (twenty minutes)

How does this type of celebration inspire you in your decisions?

(Time of silence)

In a second round, the participants express what struck them most in what was shared, in the words expressed as well as in the silences (an attitude of attentive and spiritual listening is kept in view, not confrontation or debate) but a respectful dialogue.

Third round of dialogue (twenty minutes)

Through what has just been shared, the Holy Spirit whispers to our hearts a direction, a conversion in our ways of celebrating the Word and the Eucharist. What is the spirit saying to our Church?

(Time of silence)

Finally, in the third round, participants reflect on what seems to emerge, to surface, what resonated during the conversation and touched them, moved them and made sense to them, followed by a time of silence.

Conclusion

Go around the table and ask participants to summarize in a few words what they remember from the workshop on "How do we celebrate in Church" and how they found the process. A secretary records these comments and prepares a summary of the meeting's conclusions. (See the last page of this document for tips on writing your report).

Prayer of thanksgiving

Let us recite together Psalm 116

Praise the Lord, all peoples; celebrate him, all nations!

His love for us is strongest; the Lord's faithfulness is everlasting!

A time of gratitude

As you return home and think about what you have heard in these exchanges, in the presence of the Risen One, ask yourself today and in the days to come: What is rising in me? What is the call that the Lord is placing in me? Perhaps you might catch yourself saying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

To write the meeting report

This report should not exceed 2 printed pages.

1. Describe the group that met: level of involvement in the church, membership (parishioners, religious, committee, service or movement members), young or old, homogeneous or diverse group, etc.
2. How did the process go: smoothly? with difficulty? Why did it happen? If you adapted it, how?

3. From the notes that were collected at the conclusion (after the third round of dialogue), present the main conclusions reached by the group: findings, sources of joy or sadness, awareness, proposals, hopes, etc.
4. Did the group members leave satisfied with the experience? Why or why not?

Please send your report to Mr. André Inkel.

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