

Opening Liturgy for Parish or Group Synod Consultation

Opening Song: (Songs calling the Holy Spirit or with a theme of service would be appropriate here)

Opening Prayer:

(For A Spiritual or Pastoral Gathering):

O God, whose Son promised to all those gathered in his name
that he would be there in their midst,
grant, we pray,
that we may be aware of his presence among us
and, in truth and charity, experience in our hearts
an abundance of grace, mercy and peace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Or/

(For A Council or A Synod):

O Lord, ruler and guardian of your Church,
pour out, we pray, upon your servants
a spirit of truth, understanding and peace,
that they may strive with all their heart
to know what is pleasing to you
and then pursue it with all their strength.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Or/

(For the Church /B):

O God, in the covenant of your Christ
you never cease to gather to yourself from all nations
a people growing together in unity through the Spirit;
grant, we pray, that your Church,
faithful to the mission entrusted to her,
may continually go forward with the human family
and always be the leaven and the soul of human society,
to renew it in Christ and transform it into the family of God.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Scripture: [Choose One of the Following]

- Acts 2.1-11 (All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages)
- 1 Cor 12.4-11 (On and the same Spirit allots these gifts to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses)
- 1 Cor 12.12-30 (You form the body of Christ, yet each of you is a different part of it)
- Lk 24.13-35 (Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?) /Emmaus
- Jn 16.12-15 (All that the Father has is mine, and the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you)
- Lk 8.4-15 (Some seed fell into good soil; these are the ones who hear the word, hold it fast and bear fruit in patience)

Silent Reflection on the Word:

Intercessions:

As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, dear brothers and sisters, let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy, that, as he came into the world to bring the Good News to the poor and to heal the contrite of heart, so in our own time, also, he may bring salvation to all in need.

1. For God's holy Church: That it may be a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of salvation, walking with all peoples to the Kingdom of God.
2. For Francis our Pope, Stephen our Bishop, and the holy, faithful People of God in the Diocese of Prince Albert: that the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out.
3. For all civil and public authorities: that they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity.
4. For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering: That they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world.
5. For ourselves, gathered here: That this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission.

O God, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, for you yourself are the source of all devotion, and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Father:

Prayer leading into discussion: (Use the Holy Spirit prayer for the Synod)