

# MISSIONARY ACTION

The synodal process is an opportunity to carefully listen to others and the Holy Spirit as we dream and discern how we are called to live as and be Church. During this process, it is important to not only connect and listen to those in the Church, but also those who are, for one reason or another, on the periphery, away from the Church, or disconnected. Their voices and input can be vitally important for our efforts and must be included. To this end, now that you have completed this listening and discernment experience, you are encouraged to reach out to someone who is away from and/or not connected to the Church.

While this experience can be uncomfortable, sharing the love of Christ must become part of the day-to-day interactions of a missionary disciple, especially to those on the periphery, as we actively listen to and journey with one another. A synodal Church must become comfortable with the uncomfortable. Our conversations are not about converting people or trying to get them to join anything. Rather, we are asking for their insight and perspective. Using this input, we can re-envision our own role within a missionary church on the journey.

Below are a few considerations as you reach out to those who may not be connected to the Church. Use the reverse side of this paper to jot down insights you learn as you listen.

- **Be hospitable and gracious** when you approach someone and ask to speak with them. Allow enough time for sharing. Do not rush anything.
- **Be clear** on why you would like to gather their insight for the Synod process. It is about listening to others and learning from each other's experiences, insights, and dreams.
- **Simply listen** with an open heart. Use the questions and prompts provided to aid your conversation. Do not add your input to their sharing or try to debate or persuade them.
- **Lead with a loving and joyful disposition** and make the conversation about their experience. Allow the conversation to flow naturally. Do not try to force any kind of response or fish for an answer.
- **Be non-judgmental** in your words, actions, and posture. Do not add “leading” questions to your consultation.
- **Offer a brief prayer** of gratitude at the end of the consultation.
- **Thank the participant** and ask if they would like to learn more about how the Church will be using the Synod process in its future visioning and planning.
- **Follow up** with the participant after a few days and thank them again for their time. Reiterate that if they would like to learn more about the Church, to connect with you.

Return your notes from the missionary action to the Synod contact person for your parish, school or organization.



