



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Living the Fruits of a Synodal Church

Presented by: Fr. David McCallum, SJ

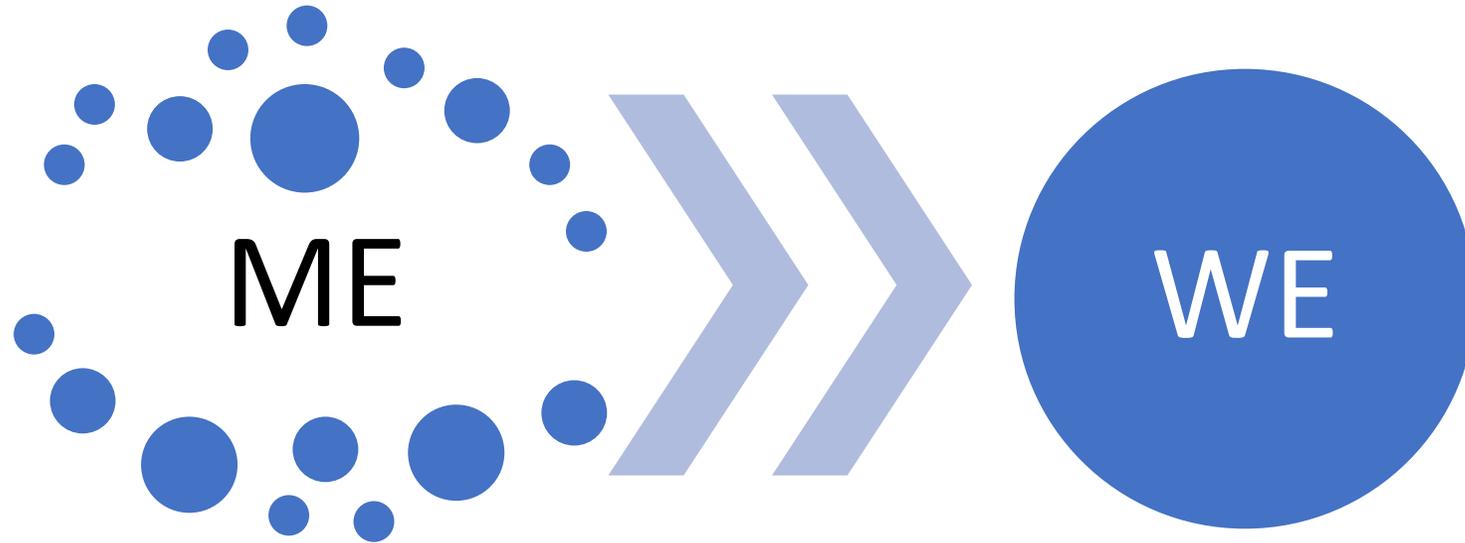


ARCHDIOCESE
OF SAN ANTONIO

Context: “A Change of Epochs”- Pope Francis



How do we move from I to WE?



Individual

Community



The Disciples on
the Road to
Emmaus

The Risen Christ helps us to see, to
listen, and to follow...

The Call: To Journey on the Road Together



Communion Participation Mission

Spiritual Conversation: A Method of Encounter

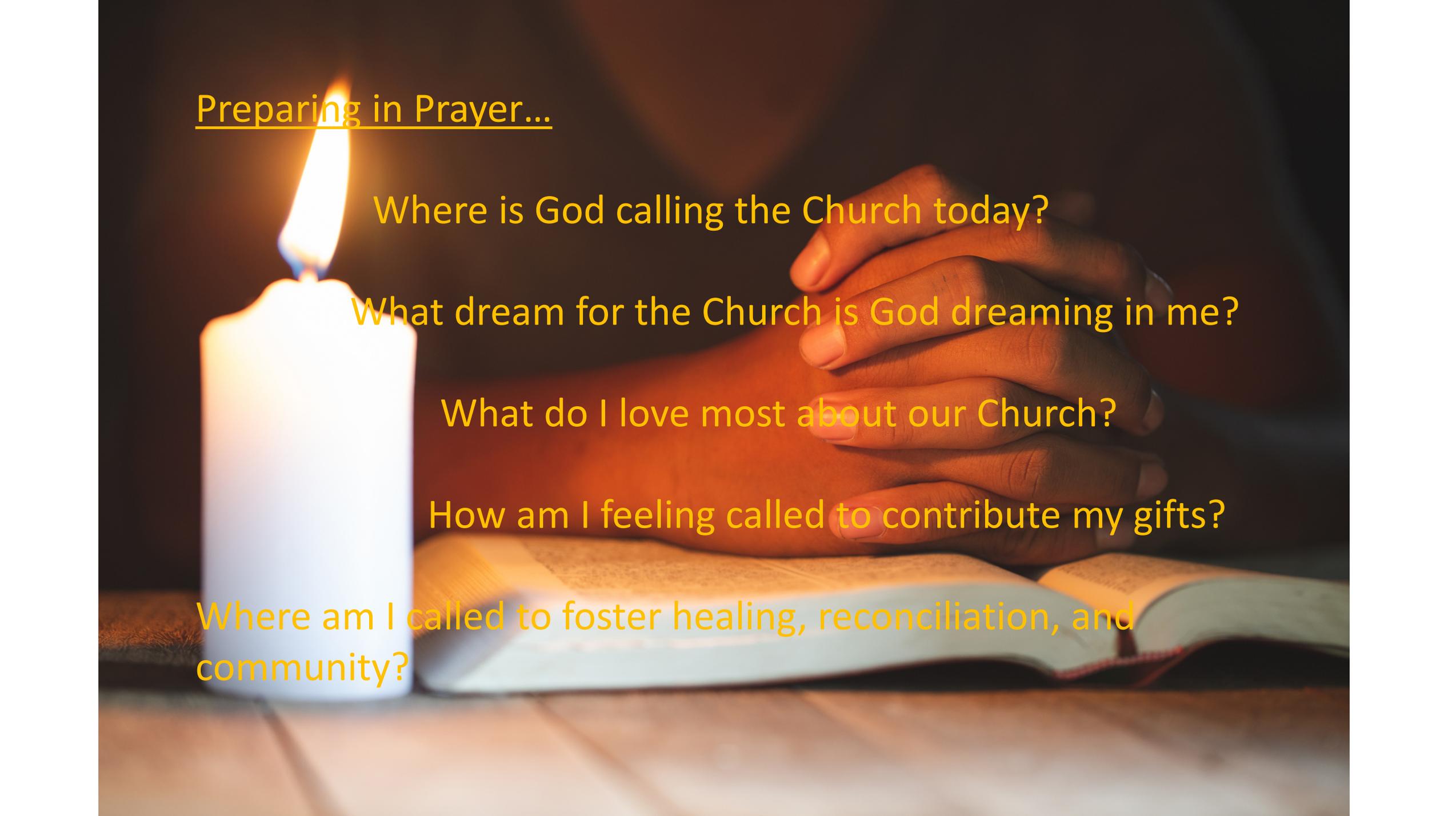
1. Overview of Spiritual Conversation Method

- How we might prepare?
- How we might listen?
- How we might speak?



Spiritual Conversations in 3 Rounds

- *Prelude: Personal Prayer, Journaling, Quiet Pondering*
- **Round One:** Each briefly person shares fruits of prayer. Go around the circle, and each person succinctly shares the fruit of their reflection/prayer (2-3 minutes per person).
- **Round Two:** Listening to how we are being consoled as a group. Each person shares how they were moved as they listened to the others.
- **Round Three:** What does the Spirit seem to be saying to the **group?** Discern communally on what is emerging as we listen to each other and the “Spirit of the Risen Christ” that is moving among us.

A lit candle on the left side of the image, casting a warm glow. In the center, a pair of hands is clasped in prayer over an open book. The background is dark, making the candle and hands stand out.

Preparing in Prayer...

Where is God calling the Church today?

What dream for the Church is God dreaming in me?

What do I love most about our Church?

How am I feeling called to contribute my gifts?

Where am I called to foster healing, reconciliation, and community?



How to Have A Spiritual Conversation?

Tips for Generative Listening and Prayerful Speaking



Moving from I to We means *avoiding*
“intersecting monologues...”

Listening is the highest
form of love.

- Theologian, Paul Tillich

How do we listen? Where is our
Attention?



FOUR LEVELS of LISTENING & CONVERSING

① DOWNLOAD
LISTEN from HABIT



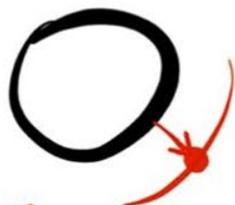
POLITENESS

② FACTUAL
LISTEN from OUTSIDE



DEBATE

③ EMPATHIC
LISTEN from WITHIN



DIALOGUE

④ GENERATIVE
LISTEN from the FIELD



COLLECTIVE
CREATIVITY

Contemplative Listening: Making Space for God and the Other

1. Be available and present
2. Listen with the head and the heart
3. Be aware of the Spirit's presence
4. Pay attention to what moves you as you listen to each person and to the group as a whole
5. Where do you feel consoled, energized, hopeful? (2nd Round)
6. What common themes do you notice? What marginal voice must be considered? Emerging consensus? (3rd Round)



Intentional Speaking: Sharing the Fruits of Prayer

1. What fruits of my prayer seem most significant, consoling, and come from a place of love?
2. What might the Holy Spirit be inviting me to share?
3. Take time to organize my thoughts
4. Prepare so I can share succinctly (2 to 3 minutes)
5. Share the fruit of my prayer “speaking in love...”



For Further Resources:



www.discerningleadership.org