

CDM Kampungku Connection

Stepping into the Mission Field – Prayer in Action

October 2024

Opening prayer:

In conjunction with the Pope's intention for October, *to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.* Let's pray that people will open themselves to serve in a community-spirit.

Opening prayer as a group:

Loving Father, you have invited us with all our diverse charisms and capabilities given by you to serve your church. In the process of serving, the same diversity often threatens to tear us apart when our human desire shadows your desire for your Church. This leads to conflict, disagreements and detachment from one another. We ask you today, in a special way, to bless us with the Spirit of Synodality where we by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, we will be able to learn through our experience and help us to live in communion, to achieve participation and to open ourselves to mission. We call on the Holy Spirit, first and foremost, to help us grow authentically towards the communion and mission that God calls the Church to live out in this time and place.

1. Are you in mission mode?

Take a moment to discern with those present if you are in mission more or otherwise. Reflect these questions below help you make a concrete assessment on your positioning today as a Catholic:

- 1) *Have you felt a certain degree of discomfort in your spiritual journey where you feel something more needs to be done in your journey as a Christian?*
- 2) *There are things that happen around you that cause you to lose sleep or puts you in a challenged state with a voice telling you, "Hey...what are you going to do about this?"*
- 3) *Something the priest said in a homily or in a prayer meeting you had attended and that thought or concern has got glued to your mind.*
- 4) *You have started praying about it and you feel God is calling you to do something about it but You feel unworthy, unequipped and unready to make a move?*

If your answer is "Yes" for all these 4 questions, well, you are entering into mission mode. The same experience that the disciples of Jesus when through after Jesus died and they proactively started the mission to spread the good news of the gospel through their preaching and action.

Acts 2: 41

After the Holy Spirit descended, Peter stood up and delivered a powerful sermon to the crowd, explaining that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was the promised Messiah. He called people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. His message led to the conversion of about 3,000 people that day.

2. The Reality of Being in Mission Mode...

It is first important to note that those who go into mission mode first go into a prayer mode. If one were to undertake a mission without prayer, the reality is...it won't last long. So, what happens in time of prayer? We begin to remain still to hear what God tells us about the mission ahead of us. The Lord never asks us to do something that is outside of our charisms and capabilities. He designed us for the purpose of mission. This means that we need to take the time in prayer to find that alignment, to get that confirmation that the mission and our charisms come together. This does not stop as a "*sendirian berhad*" exercise but a community exercise where like-minded people come together to discern how would the synodal journey take form.

In the Preparatory Document for the Synod on Synodality (2021), Pope Francis stated, "***Discernment is the method by which we make decisions together, listening to the Holy Spirit and each other. The process of discernment calls for openness to conversion and renewal.***"

Personal Prayer leads to Community Bonding that further leads to discernment and agreement to a synodal journey in an area of common concern. Yes, in doing so, you will get mixed signals, debates, disagreements – but all done with one intention – to bring the beauty of the gospel to those who need to hear it.

3. Move from Being a Believer to a Missionary Disciple – ACTION PLAN

- 1) Decide to get outside your comfort zone in your journey as a Christian
- 2) Seek the Lord's help in prayer to materialize your mission into action. Ask the Lord to reveal people to you who will be in synodality with you in this journey.
- 3) Develop a plan of action to materialize your mission. Seek for progress and not perfection.
- 4) Ask Mary our Mother to intercede for you and your community.

4. Spiritual Conversation

1. Share what is one area that you feel God is calling to make as your mission
2. Take turns to express your thoughts in what was shared by each person.
3. Choose a partner in the group and pray for the person to help the Lord make this mission a reality in his time.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for putting it into my heart to join this BEC meeting today. So many things could have prevented me from being here today and yet, you made me take the journey less travelled by through my availing of myself to be here today. I know, nothing happens by chance, and it was ordained by You that I come to this meeting to discover my mission in Your Church. This all starts by first abiding myself in You in prayer. Hence remove the thoughts of my unworthiness, unreadiness and unequipped feeling. I find my strength in you, O Lord. So, You make me worthy; You make me ready and You equip me Lord. I can do all things in You who strengthens me. I throw away further excuses and avail myself completely for this mission in total obedience to Your Will.