



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Jeremiah 20: 10-13
Psalm 68: 8-10, 14, 17,
33-35
Roman 5: 12-15
Matthew 10: 26-33



“No one should impose his or her own ideas; we must all listen to one another.

No one is excluded; we are all called to participate.

No one possesses the whole truth; we must all humbly seek it and seek it together.”

- Pope Leo XIV

The first movement of communal discernment is **surrender**. Entering an experience of Conversation in the Spirit is not about offering deeper reflections and contributions to the group. The deeper task is to surrender what we “want to say”, “want to be”, or “want to have happen” to the Lord. The prevailing question then is: What is the Spirit inviting us to discover and pursue together? Are we willing to let go of our agendas, ideas, and thoughts so that others may emerge? Embracing this surrender is a gift that will enable us to truly move and grow as one Body of Christ.

The second movement is **inclusivity**. The Spirit speaks through the appointed, the visible, the experienced, and more often than not, through the young, the little, and the least expected. If we are truly open to the Spirit, clarity can come from the invisible, the unnoticed, those on the margins, and the wounded. Perhaps discerning together means that we are radically open to voices and truly consider them, trusting that God can speak to us through those we often overlook and underestimate.

The third movement is **accountability**. An initiative, coupled with the drive and method to implement it, may be arduous in itself. The most challenging of all is to be accountable for what we have set out to do. Openness to feedback, refining, and reflection is imperative to ensure we have our ears tuned to the heart of the community, and to how our initiatives help, impact, neglect, or sustain members of the community.

This goes beyond simply deciding. It is being open to being transformed by the Spirit who reveals and guides through the Body of Christ. Our communal discernment then becomes conversion.

Yet again, we must ask ourselves truthfully: **Are we willing to surrender our desired outcomes? Are we truly open to the voices we least expect? And are we ready to be accountable for what we choose together as Church?** ✠

NEWBEC

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WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

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MONTHLY FOCUS: CHURCH: Living Synodality



Tuning Our Ears to One Another

A spark ignites an idea, a movement, and courage allows one to share it. Then comes the disposition of the listener, who acknowledges the holiness of the other and listens authentically in the Spirit. How does this movement take shape practically in our communities?

What are the movements of communal discernment? The sacred act of listening is only the beginning. What has been shared and heard must now be held in the heart and in the Spirit, so that together we may begin to recognise where God is leading the community.