

St. V Synod Prayer Prompts

Based on *Ten Thematic Nuclei to be Explored*

one

I. THE JOURNEYING COMPANIONS

John 4: 3-7

Jesus left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.

When we say: "our Church," who is part of it? What persons or groups are on the margins?

We stand before You, Holy Spirit. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. Amen.

two

II. LISTENING

Romans 12: 5-8

We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reflect: How are the Laity, especially young people and women, listened to?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, trusting in your enduring presence, we commit ourselves to be healing instruments of justice and peace. Amen.

Offer what the Holy Spirit is saying to you now, if you are willing.

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three

III. a. SPEAKING OUT

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

All are invited to speak with courage: how do we manage to say what is important to us?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, inspire us so that in all we do and say, we reflect Your empowering grace. Amen.

four

III. b. SPEAKING OUT

Job 33:14

For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it.

Who speaks on behalf of the Church, and how are they chosen?

We stand before You, Holy Spirit. Guide us, and make Yourself at home in our hearts. We ask of You, who are at work in every place and time. Amen.

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five

IV. a. CELEBRATING

I Corinthians 10:15-17

I say to you as sensible people; judge for yourselves what I am saying. The blessing-cup, is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf of bread means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all share in this one loaf.

What are the primary roles of the laity during the Mass? What are the primary roles of the clergy during the Mass?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, lead us in supporting our community's active and full participation in liturgies and celebrations. Amen.

six

IV. b. CELEBRATING

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

What makes the Mass a holy experience?

We stand before You, Holy Spirit. You are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son. Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. Amen.

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seven

V. CO-RESPONSIBLE IN THE MISSION

Isaiah 1: 11, 15, 17

What do I care for the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD. . . . When you spread out your hands, I will close my eyes to you; Though you pray the more, I will not listen. . . . Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.

How does the Church support its members who are committed to service in society?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, empower us in our commitment to sustain the Earth, and all of your Creation. Amen.

eight

VI. a. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

2 Timothy 9

The word of God is not chained.

How are divergences of vision, conflicts, and difficulties addressed in our parish? In our diocese?

We stand before You, Holy Spirit. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Amen.

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nine

VI. b. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

1 John 3: 16- 18

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

How does our parish (and our diocese) learn from society: politics, economics, culture, civil society, the poor . . . ?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, inspire us so that in all we do and say, we reflect the infinite mercy and compassion of our brother, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ten

VII. WITH THE OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

Luke 9:49-50

Then John spoke up, ‘Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow in our company.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you.’

What relations do we have with brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, open our hearts to growth and learning of Scripture, to a broad and deep Sacramental imagination, and to the diversity of the Christian community. Amen.

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eleven

VIII. a. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

Mark 10:42-43

Jesus summoned them and said to them, 'You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the pagans lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant.'

How is authority exercised within our parish? Within our diocese?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, help us in supporting a welcoming community of diverse persons and families. Amen.

twelve

VIII. b. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

I Corinthians 12: 12-21

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts is a single unit . . . so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized . . . and one Spirit was given us all to drink. Thus the body is not to be identified with one of its many parts. . . . But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

How is lay ministry and the assumption of responsibility by the laity promoted at our parish? In our diocese?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, breathe into our lives, that we may reflect Your creative light and love. Amen.

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thirteen

VIII. c. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

John 17: 18-22

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — I in them and you in me — so that they may be brought to complete unity.

What formation do the parish, the diocese, and the Church offer for discernment and the exercise of authority?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, nurture our vision of being and becoming a community formed by Word and Sacrament for Service. Amen.

fourteen

IX. a. DISCERNING AND DECIDING

I Corinthians 4-7

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

How do we promote participation in decision-making within the hierarchically structured community of the Church?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, fortify us as we promise to love, serve, and challenge one another. Amen.

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fifteen

IX. b. DISCERNING AND DECIDING

James 5:12

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or use any oaths at all. If you mean ‘Yes,’ all you need to say is a simple ‘Yes;’ if you mean ‘No,’ say a simple ‘No.’” Otherwise you make yourselves liable to judgment.

How do we promote transparency and accountability at our parish? In our diocese?

We stand before You, Holy Spirit. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. Amen.

sixteen

X. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

Luke 12:54-56

Jesus said to the crowd: ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, “It’s going to rain,” and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, “It’s going to be hot,” and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?’

How does our parish read the dynamics of the culture in which we are immersed and their impact on our style of Church? How does our diocese do this?

Holy Spirit of God, Mother and Father of us all, strengthen our commitment to our neighbors near and far, to the poor, and to the marginalized. Amen.

Offer what the Holy Spirit is saying to you now, if you are willing.