



*Let's try a 30 minute mini sample of:*

# **“Conversations in the Spirit”**

*The Vatican's new process for prayerful listening*

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## **Program Guide for Parishes/Catechists/Families**

### **Overview:**

#### **Why is the “Conversations in the Spirit” model important?**

In October 2021, Pope Francis called for Catholics around the world to gather together in small groups to listen to each other, pray together, and discern where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church.

Pope Francis called this small group listening process, “Conversations in the Spirit.”

Catholics who participated in these global gatherings found it to be a very useful tool for having challenging, “courageous conversations.” The model's structure creates room for the Holy Spirit to guide the process and allows all participants to prayerfully and respectfully listen to each other.

In a world and Church filled with division and lack of trust, Pope Francis recognized that this simple tool may be a gift from the Holy Spirit to take the first steps toward healing divisions.

Now, Pope Leo XIV is inviting all the Catholics of the world to use Conversations in the Spirit as a tool for prayerful discernment and decision-making in their local faith communities.

Catechists are also discovering that Conversations in the Spirit can be a wonderful tool for celebrating family events and having “courageous conversations” at the family kitchen table.

#### **What is the best way to introduce “Conversations in the Spirit” to your parish?**

The best way to understand the Vatican's new “Conversations in the Spirit” process is to personally experience it. And the best way to introduce something new to a parish is to find a simple and convenient way to provide a multitude of opportunities for everyone to have a positive “mini-taste” of the experience.

This adaptation was created to make it easy for a small team to provide endless opportunities for their parish to have the experience. It can be presented to a group of 5 to 50, in 40 minutes or less, with just 1 or 2 trained facilitators for the entire gathering. This adaptation makes it possible for already existing parish groups (bible study groups, OCIA team, Knights of Columbus, etc.) to simply schedule a time slot during a regular meeting to try it out. It also makes it convenient for a larger group gathering between weekend liturgies. The 1 or 2 trained facilitators can “mentor” additional facilitators by inviting parish leaders to assist with these opportunities.

The best way to launch this new process is to first host one large “Introduction to Conversations in the Spirit” event, and personally invite the leaders of all your parish organizations. Once your parish leaders have had a positive experience, they can arrange time during their regularly scheduled meetings, and invite your facilitator team to introduce the members of their group to the model.

The goal is to expose as many parishioners as possible to a positive, personal experience of prayerful discernment and decision-making. Then, whenever the need for a “courageous conversation” arises, parishioners will already have this valuable tool in their leadership toolbox.

This model can also be easily adapted for “courageous conversations” around the kitchen table with families. Samples of these options are provided on the back of the participants’ handout.

Keep in mind that this is a mini-version of the process. When your parish is ready to use the model for more challenging conversations, additional time is needed for individual responses and the final gathering of the “convergences/divergences/emergences.” There are many versions available for the full process, and a resource list of recommended options is provided with this packet.

## Grouping:

Participants will be asked to form groups of 4 or 5 people. It is important for the process to either have all the groups even in size or only a 1-person variation in each group. These small groups make it possible to keep the experience within the introductory, “mini” time frame. The best space arrangement is simply moveable chairs. If the experience takes place in the worship space, participants can form their groups of 4 or 5 with people sitting nearby.

## Set-up needs:

- A space large enough for the participants to form themselves into groups of 4 or 5.
- Seating for all participants. (tables may hinder the small group arrangements)
- A central space for the facilitator(s) with:
  - Podium
  - Microphone (if a large group)
  - A display board or PowerPoint screen and PP equipment.
  - A small prayer table in front of the podium (candle, bible, flowers, etc.) optional
- 1 short song refrain that calls us to open our minds and hearts, such as a familiar psalm response. This copyright free example can be sung to the children’s tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”
  - ***Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!***
  - ***Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!***
- “Conversations in the Spirit” handout (to be distributed *AFTER* the experience)

# **FACILITATOR SCRIPT**

(written in presentation phrase format)

## **Welcome:** (Slide #1 “Conversations in the Spirit”)

Welcome Everyone!

In October 2021, Pope Francis called for Catholics around the world to gather together in small groups to listen to each other, pray together, and discern where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church.

Pope Francis called this small group listening process, “Conversations in the Spirit.”

Catholics found it to be a very useful tool for having challenging, “courageous conversations.”

The model’s structure creates room for the Holy Spirit to guide the process and allows all participants to prayerfully and respectfully listen to each other.

Now, Pope Leo XIV is inviting all the Catholics of the world to use Conversations in the Spirit as a tool for prayerful discernment and decision-making in their local faith communities.

And the best way to understand this model is to personally experience it.

+ + +

Would everyone form small groups of 4 or 5 people. No less than 4, no more than 5 please.

Now create 1 additional space in each group for the Holy Spirit.

This is a visual reminder of Who is actually leading this process.

(Name) and (Name) will guide you through the entire process.

- To begin, I will provide you with a single reflection question...
- We will have 1 minute of silent reflection so you can listen to the Spirit and prepare your response. Feel free to write down your thoughts if that is helpful
- Then, each of you will have 1 minute to share your thoughts, without interruption.
  - Speak from personal experience. Avoid secondhand information or social media.
  - If you finish speaking before your time is up, the full minute still belongs to you.
  - When someone is speaking, give them your full attention, mind and heart.
  - When someone is speaking, do not get distracted with planning your own response. Just listen with your entire being. The Spirit may be speaking through that person.
- We will be using a simple musical refrain and the tone of a bell to prayerfully move us along. Just follow as we guide you through the process.

Questions?

## **The Process:**

### **STEP 1 – Pray Together**

(Slide #2 – opening prayer)

Let us begin with a prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance. As we pray, I invite you to sign your ears, forehead, lips, and heart in the manner of the signing before the Gospel at Mass

**Come, Holy Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your Love.**

**Open our Ears that we may Listen (+), our Minds that we may Learn (+),**

**our Mouths that we may Speak with prudence (+),**

**and our Hearts (+) that we may Love each other as Christ Loves Us. Amen.**

**(Slide #3 – song response)**

**Song Response:** (sing 2 to 3 times, as needed)

***Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!***

***Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!***

## **STEP 2 – Silently Read the Reflection Question**

**The Reflection Question:** **(Slide #4 – Reflection Question & Song Response)**

In prayerful silence, let us read the Reflection Question:

**Looking back over the past year, describe a time when you felt most alive and connected to your home parish or faith community**

- We will have one minute to prayerfully ponder this question. Make notes, if helpful.
- What personal experience (or lack of one) comes to mind?
- Identify your own personal stories. Avoid second-hand information or social media.
- **Our 1 minute of silent reflection begins now** **(provide a single ring tone)**

## **STEP 3 – Share and Listen** **(Keep Slide #4 – Reflection Question, displayed)**

- Each person will have one full minute to speak, uninterrupted.
- We will begin with the person in your group sitting closest to me (facilitator), and will move in a clockwise direction to the next person on the left of the first speaker.
- When you hear the ring tone, your 1 minute is up and the next person can speak.
- If your group has only 4 people, please patiently wait in silence as the groups of 5 have one additional minute for sharing.
- **The first person in your group may begin now.** **(provide a single ring tone)**

(The facilitators keep the time and provide the ring tone every minute for the 5 minutes. When everyone has finished their 1 minute of sharing, lead the Song Response) **(Don't change slide)**

**Song Response:** (sing 2 to 3 times, as needed)

***Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!***

***Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!***

#### **STEP 4 – Silent Reflection, Listen to the Spirit** (Keep Reflection Question, displayed)

- Now we will have one additional minute to prayerfully ponder what you have heard.
- How has another person's comments influenced your own? Make notes, if helpful
- Is the Spirit calling you to new paths? Is the Spirit calling the community to new paths?
- **Our 1 minute of silent reflection begins now** *(provide a single ring tone)*

#### **STEP 5 – Share and Listen** (Keep Slide #4 – Reflection Question, displayed)

- Each person will have one additional minute to speak, uninterrupted.
- Share how another perspective has influenced your own.
- Is the Spirit calling you to new paths? Is the Spirit calling the community to new paths?
- We will begin again with the person in your group sitting closest to me (facilitator).
- **The first person in your group may begin now.** *(provide a single ring tone)*

(The facilitators keep the time and provide the ring tone every minute for the 5 minutes. When everyone has finished their 1 minute of sharing, lead the Song Response) **(Don't change slide)**

**Song Response:** (sing 2 to 3 times, as needed)

*Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!*

*Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!*

#### **STEP 6 – Silent Reflection, Listen to the Spirit** (Slide #5: Converge/Diverge/Emerge)

- Now we will have one final minute of silence.
- **Reflect:** What have you heard the Spirit say today?
  - **Convergences:** What experiences can your group agree on in common?
  - **Divergences:** What were the experiences expressed by only 1 or 2 members?
  - **Emergences:** Is the Spirit calling you, or this community to step forward, try something new, or explore an issue?
- **Our 1 minute of silent reflection begins now** *(provide a single ring tone)*

**Song Response:** (sing 2 to 3 times, as needed)

*Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!*

*Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!*

#### **STEP 7 – Prayerful Discernment for Action** (Keep Slide #5 –displayed)

- Your group now has 5 minutes for open discussion.
- As a group, identify the key ideas that the Spirit has surfaced.
- As a group, choose 1 or 2 steps that this community could take to journey forward (Emergences)
- **Your group may begin now.** *(provide a single ring tone)*

**Song Response:** (sing 2 to 3 times, as needed)

*Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!*

*Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!*

## STEP 7 – Respond and Pray (Keep Slide #5 –displayed)

- Will someone from each group give a mini report to all gathered (Facilitator calls upon each group. If there are a large number of groups, just ask for a few groups to volunteer)
- Let us now close with the prayer that Jesus taught us. (say the Lord's prayer)
- Let us share with each other a Sign of Peace

**Song Response:** (sing 2 to 3 times, as needed)

*Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!*

*Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!*

**CLOSING:** Distribute the “Conversation in the Spirit” Resources (two, 2-sided pages):

- **Participant guide for Mini-Conversations in the Spirit**
- **Mini-Conversations in the Spirit adaptations for family & catechists**
- **Additional Conversations in the Spirit global resources**
- **Synodality FAQ**

Let participants know your team is available to share this experience with other groups or ministries.

**Note:** If time allows, or if there is interest in extending the allotted time, invite participants to give their impressions of the process and how it could be used to provide all the Baptized a “seat at the table and a voice” whenever important community decisions are made.

### Acknowledgements:

- **The Pentecost Vigil Project, Inc.**, an American Catholic digital resource platform for Synodality: for organizing the design and free distribution of this new model. Patricia Clement, D.Min. served as the project manager for this endeavor. [www.pentecostvigilproject.org](http://www.pentecostvigilproject.org)
- **Pathways Toward a Thriving Parish**, an initiative by NCCL and Loyola University of New Orleans (via a Lilly grant): for inviting 4 parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Virginia to participate in their pilot program for introducing Synodality to American Parishes. [www.thrivingparishes.org](http://www.thrivingparishes.org) This mini-model emerged from the experience.
- **Lori Dahlhoff, NCCL Cohort Facilitator:** for her idea of a “single facilitator model” which makes it easy for 1 or 2 facilitators to lead a room filled with small groups through the process without the need for training facilitators and note-takes for every gathered group.
- **Eva Hall and Linda Mingos, trained liturgists / spiritual directors:** for adapting the process with music, musical cues, and phrasing that shifts the experience toward prayerful reflection.
- **St. Ann Parish, Colonial Heights, Thrive Team:** for piloting this new model.
- **Holy Rosary (Richmond), St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Yorktown), Immaculate Conception (Hampton) and St. Ann (Colonial Hgts.)**, for participating in the Thriving Parishes initiative.
- **The Pastoral Center** <https://pastoral.center>: a non-profit Catholic publisher for their early support of Pope Francis' call for Synodality, and for permission to use their synodal journeys graphic.
- **School for Synodality, UK:** for their creative adaptations of Conversations in the Spirit for parishes and pastoral councils. [www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk](http://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk) .
- **Cardinal Grech**, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, **Sister Nathalie Becquart XMCJ**, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, and **Bishop John Stowe, O.F.M. Conv., (USA)**, for supporting The Pentecost Vigil Project's efforts to introduce Synodality to American parishes.



*Let's try a 30 minute mini sample of:*

# **“Conversations in the Spirit”**

*The Vatican's new process for prayerful listening*

**Note:** In October 2021, Pope Francis called for Catholics around the world to gather in small groups to listen to each other, pray together, and discern where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church. Pope Francis called this small group listening process, “Conversations in the Spirit.” Now, Pope Leo XVI is inviting Catholics everywhere to use this model as a tool for prayerful discernment and decision-making in their local faith communities and even within their families. The best way to understand “Conversations in the Spirit”, is to personally experience it. This is a simple, mini version.

## **The Reflection Question:**

**Looking back over the past year, describe a time when you felt most alive and connected to your home parish or faith community.**

**Gather...** Gather in groups of 5 or less. Leave an empty chair for the Holy Spirit. Arrange for a facilitator or parent to prepare, and then guide everyone through the process. (see full facilitator notes and script)

**Step 1: Pray Together** Open with a short prayer and simple song (samples on back of this page)

**Step 2: Silently Read the Reflection Question (above).** 1 minute of silence.

- What personal experience (or lack of one) comes to mind? Reflect and write in silence.
- Identify your own personal stories. Avoid second-hand information or social media.

**Step 3: Share and Listen** Each person speaks for 1 minute. No interruptions.

- Tell a story of your experience in this area. (take turns, listen with open hearts)

**Step 4: Silent Reflection, Listen to the Spirit** 1 more minute of silence

- Reflect: How has another person's comments influenced your own? (reflect and write in silence)
- Ponder: Is the Spirit calling you to new paths? Is the Spirit calling the community to new paths?

**Step 5: Share and Listen** Each person speaks for an additional 1 minute. No interruptions.

- Share: How has another perspective influenced your own? (show that you have listened deeply)

**Step 6: Silent Reflection, Listen to the Spirit** 1 final minute of silence

- Reflect: What have you heard the Spirit say today? Reflect and write in silence.
  - **Convergences:** What experiences can your group all agree on in common?
  - **Divergences:** What were the experiences expressed by only 1 or 2 members?
  - **Emergences:** Is the Spirit calling you, or this community to step forward or explore an issue?

**Step 7: Prayerful Discernment for Action** 5-minute open discussion in small group.

- As a group, identify the key ideas that the Spirit has surfaced.
- As a group, choose 1 or 2 steps that this community could take to Journey Forward. (Emergences)

**Step 8: Respond and Pray** 5 minutes for reports and closing

- Respond: Each group reports to all gathered (The facilitator can share reports with parish leadership.)
- Pray: Close with the Lord's Prayer and share with each other a Sign of Peace.

# **Conversations in the Spirit**

## **Adaptations**

### **Sample Opening Prayer:**

Let us begin with a prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance. As we pray, I invite you to sign your ears, forehead, lips, and heart in the manner of the signing before the Gospel at Mass

**Come, Holy Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your Love.  
Open our Ears that we may Listen (+), our Minds that we may Learn (+),  
our Mouths that we may Speak with prudence (+),  
and our Hearts (+) that we may Love each other as Christ Loves Us. Amen.**

### **Sample Song Response: (tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")**

***Come Holy Spirit, Come! Be with us, we pray!  
Open up our minds and hearts, to hear Your Voice today!***

### **Adapting the "Reflection Question" for different occasions.**

**Note:** Keep in mind that additional prayer/sharing time is needed for more "courageous conversations." Expanded models for these conversations can be found at [www.pentecostvigilproject.org](http://www.pentecostvigilproject.org) and [www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk](http://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk).

- For a simple Kitchen Table Conversation:

**Looking back over the past year, describe a time you felt most alive and glad to be a part of our family.**

- For a Family Birthday Conversation:

**Describe a time when you felt proud and grateful that (birthday person's name) is a part of our family.**

- For a Married or Dating Couple's Anniversary Conversation:

**Describe a time you felt most connected to your partner, and most blessed by the relationship.**

- For a Family "Courageous Conversation" before making holiday (Advent/Christmas) plans:

**Name 1 thing that you think could fill this December with Christmas Spirit for the whole family.**

- For a Children's or Youth Faith Formation Conversation::

**The Holy Spirit speaks within each of us. Describe ways you think the Spirit speaks or guides you.**

- For a Parish Staff / Pastoral Council Opening Prayer / Conversation:

**Describe 1 recent parish event or ministry that you felt was inspired or guided by the Holy Spirit.**

- For Parishioners of Any Age::

**Why did you first come to this parish? Why do you stay? Who or What is missing?**

### **More Challenging "Courageous Conversations." (allow up to 3 minutes per person for sharing)**

- Describe how we, as parish leaders, listen to the Holy Spirit before making important decisions.
- "We were all baptized into one Body." I Cor 12:13 When we receive Communion at Mass, it is the Body of Christ, together, receiving the Body of Christ. How do YOU experience this moment?
- The word "Mass" comes from the word "missa" which means "sent." Describe a way that you bring Christ to the world. How does Mass nourish and strengthen your efforts throughout the week?
- What do the children and youth of our parish observe as our community gathers to worship? How do they recognize Christ's Presence in YOU and in all those assembled?
- On a scale of one to ten, how connected am I to my parish? Why? What group is *least* connected? Why?
- Do you know any Catholics who no longer attend Mass? Why did they leave? What could bring them back?
- Pope Leo XIV is calling for all Church Leaders to listen to the Voice of the Spirit in all the Baptized before prayerfully discerning important decisions. How do you experience this in your parish and diocese?



## Additional Resources for:

# **“Conversations in the Spirit”**

## ***The Vatican’s New Process for Prayerful Listening***

- **Vatican’s synod website:** <https://www.synod.va/en.html>
  - Final Synod Document [www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html](http://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html)
  - Implementation Phase [www.synod.va/en/the-synodal-process/phase-3-the-implementation/resources.html](http://www.synod.va/en/the-synodal-process/phase-3-the-implementation/resources.html)
  - What is the Implementation Phase? (mini guide)
  - How to use the Final Document (mini guide)
  - Methods and tools (mini guide)
  - Synodality Iconographics [www.synod.va/en/resources/communication-tools/infographics.html](http://www.synod.va/en/resources/communication-tools/infographics.html)
    - Mini editable posters for: The Synodal Process, Conversations in the Spirit, etc.
- **Vatican’s Synod Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/synod.va>
  - Official synod announcements, resources, workshops, and events often appear here first.
- **The Pentecost Vigil Project:** [www.pentecostvigilproject.org](http://www.pentecostvigilproject.org)
  - Mini conversations in the Spirit (this resource) – free downloadable tools for introducing CinS to parishes.
  - Dr. Bob McCarty’s “How to Facilitate a Synodal Dialog (guide for holding “courageous conversations” in your parish, including 1 example of a parish conversation around the Palestinian / Israeli controversies.
  - Dozens of free synodality resources, including the 2022 and 2023 diocesan, regional and continental reports from the pre-synod global listening sessions, and highlights from the October 2023 & 2024 Synod meetings.
- **The Pastoral Center:** <https://pastoral.center/synodal-journeys-christ-present-in-the-eucharist>
  - **Christ Present in the Eucharist: a Synodal Parish Process for Eucharistic Revival** - a complete 4-session parish program for introducing Conversations in the Spirit through a prayerful review of the Mass via Vatican II’s documents on the Liturgy. This is a digital download, that includes a guide, PowerPoint slides, handouts and resources, all for under \$50, and gives a parish/organization unlimited reproduction rights.
- **National Community of Catechetical Leaders (NCCL):** <https://www.ncclcatholic.org/>
  - Pathways toward a Thriving Parish: <https://www.thrivingparishes.org> This is a 3-year Lilly Grant collaborative initiative with Loyola University New Orleans and NCCL. Dozens of Catholic parishes across the country are creating new parish renewal pathways using a collection of tools and resources, including “Conversations in the Spirit.” As these parishes discover new pathways and resources, they are being shared on the Thriving Parishes website. (See the “Participant resources” page on the website. Updates are added frequently)
- **National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM):** <https://www.nalm.org>
  - Conversations in the Spirit Toolkit
- **Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)** <https://www.lcwr.org>
  - “Walking the Path of Synodality in the Footsteps of Pope Francis” a 6 week synodal leadership course. A free downloadable 6 module formation course for women religious, clergy and lay leaders in parishes. “Train the Trainer” videos are also available online.
- **School for Synodality, UK:** <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk>
  - Conversations in the Spirit – a How To Guide
  - Reimagining Pastoral Councils –a Starter Toolkit
  - SfS Book Club: Reading the Final Document together – 6 individual session recordings
  - Synodality 101: Our Workshops : 101: Conversations in the Spirit workshop series (3 sessions)



## ***FAQ: What is Synodality?***

**Why is Synodality important Today?** In October 2021, Pope Francis called for the revival of an ancient way of being Church called Synodality. It is a way of moving forward that acknowledges that the Church belongs to Christ, that the Spirit is active today, and that all the People of God, together, must prayerfully discern what the Holy Spirit is saying.

**What is “Synodality?”** Synodality comes from the Greek word for “Journeying Together.” It puts the Holy Spirit first, leading the journey. It is based on the belief that the Holy Spirit lives within and speaks to all the baptized Children of God. Before the Church can move forward under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must first listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying, especially what the Spirit is saying to those on the margins. This gathering of the Spirit’s voice, from the bishops to the most remote lay person, is called “sensus fidelium” or sense of the faithful (See Catechism #92)

**What is a “Synod?”** A synod is an assembly of church leaders, like the Lutheran Missouri Synod. Eastern and Orthodox Churches have often used synods to discuss and discern important issues. At the end of Vatican II, the participating bishops wished to continue having a voice in global Church affairs, so Pope Paul VI issued a document creating the Synod of Bishops. This Catholic Synod of Bishops meets every few years to discuss selected Church issues.

**What was the “Synod on Synodality”?** In October 2021, Pope Francis called for a “Synod on Synodality” to be held during October 2023 and October 2024. For the first time, the gathering was not limited to bishops. 365 representatives from across the globe participated, including cardinals, bishops, lay men and women and religious. They used a new listening process called “Conversations in the Spirit.” For two years prior to the event, the Church held similar listening sessions in parishes worldwide. It is believed to be the largest information gathering effort in known history. Previously, a synod’s final report was an advisory document presented to the Pope. At the close of the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis surprised everyone by signing the final report and declaring it to be official magisterial Church teaching. On July 7, 2025, Pope Leo XIV issued a 3-year guide for the implementation of this important document.

**What was the goal for the “Synod on Synodality?”** “The objective of this Synodal Process is to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term.” (Vademecum, 10) For more info, visit <https://www.synod.va/en.htm>

**What does Synodality look like?** A synodal journey is a process of praying, listening, speaking, discerning, and finding a way forward together. It requires the ability to listen deeply, and to sift through what is shared, while including the Spirit’s voice as it comes to us in Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium. It is a way for every Catholic to have their issues heard and valued. It is a useful tool for parish pastors, diocesan bishops, and Church leadership at every level, to consult with the Holy Spirit and the People of God before making important decisions. The model that was created to assist with this prayerful listening process during the October 2023 and 2024 synod gatherings is called “Conversations in the Spirit.”

**When was Synodality first used in the Catholic Church?** The first recorded use of this process of prayerful listening and discernment took place in Jerusalem during the 9 days between Jesus’ ascension into heaven and the arrival of the Spirit on Pentecost (the first novena). A second example took place during the Council of Jerusalem around 50 AD. You can read about these events in the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 1, 2 and 15 in the New Testament.