



Conversation in the Spirit

Conversation in the Spirit is a tool that, even with its limitations, enables authentic listening in order to discern what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Its practice has elicited joy, awe and gratitude and has been experienced as a path of renewal that transforms, individuals, groups, and the Church.

Synthesis Report of the Universal Synod, Rome, Oct 23



Conversation in the Spirit

God is Labouring in this World and the Spirit of God is in everyone!





Conversation in the Spirit

Purpose of the conversations is to strengthen the communion of hearts and minds.





Conversation in the Spirit

This is not to be confused with everyone having the same opinion.

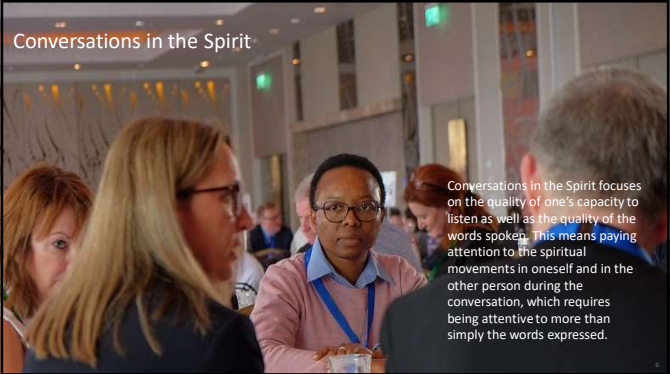




Conversation in the Spirit

It is a way for us to discover how the Holy Spirit is active in the group.

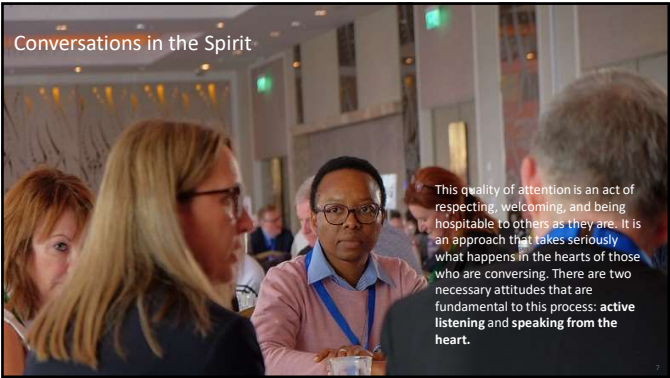




Conversations in the Spirit

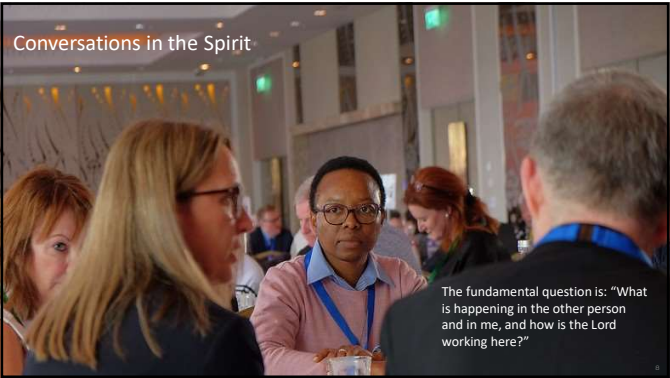
Conversations in the Spirit focuses on the quality of one's capacity to listen as well as the quality of the words spoken. This means paying attention to the spiritual movements in oneself and in the other person during the conversation, which requires being attentive to more than simply the words expressed.

Conversations in the Spirit




This quality of attention is an act of respecting, welcoming, and being hospitable to others as they are. It is an approach that takes seriously what happens in the hearts of those who are conversing. There are two necessary attitudes that are fundamental to this process: **active listening** and **speaking from the heart**.

Conversations in the Spirit



The fundamental question is: "What is happening in the other person and in me, and how is the Lord working here?"




First Round:

Take some time in silence.

Each person takes turns to share. Everyone is given the same amount of time to speak (usually 2/3 minutes).

Listen to one another rather than thinking about what you want to say.

Open your hearts and minds to listen to the one who is speaking, and be attentive to how the Holy Spirit is moving.



Between each person, take a brief pause to absorb what was said.

During this round there are no discussions or interactions between participants. This is an exercise of active listening.

Pay attention to how you have been moved during the first round. What struck you as you listened, and what were the notable points of consolation or desolation if any?

Take some brief notes for yourself of what has been shared.

A brief time of silence is observed.

Round Two:

Participants share what emerged within them during the time of silence (usually 2/3 minutes).

This is not a time for discussing or refuting what someone else says, nor for bringing up what participants forgot to mention in the first round.

It is an opportunity to respond to questions like:

How was I affected by what I heard?




Is there a common thread in what was shared? Is there something missing that I had expected would be said?


Have I heard something that resonates with truth?

Have I received any particular insight or revelation? What is it?

Where did I experience a sense of harmony with others as we shared with one another?

A time of silence is once again observed.





Third Round:

Share what emerged from the preceding time of silence.

Take note of the ways in which the Holy Spirit may be moving in the group.

Briefly review and reflect on how the conversation proceeded.

Decide on the main points you will bring from the conversation to the whole gathering.

Conversation in the Spirit

What is the Spirit revealing to us in this moment, and how are we being called to respond as ambassadors of hope-filled communication?

