GROUP WORK

Conversation in the Spirit

1 h 15 min

CATHOLIC ACTION
SYNODALITY AND MISSION
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Rome, Italy | 15 - 18 October 2026

Each group will appoint a facilitator/moderator in advance to help us carry out the activity. We will have one hour and fifteen minutes for this activity.

1 5′ | 2 3′ | 3 5′ | 4 25′ | 5 11′ | 6 20′ | 7 4′

1 Before we begin — 5 min

- We introduce ourselves. Name and country
- We appoint a secretary to record the contributions and, above all, to help us in particular with drawing up the group's final report.

The facilitator will remind us of the key points:

- This is a time for listening to the Spirit and for discernment, not merely for sharing ideas.
- It is important to maintain an atmosphere of silence and active listening
- Do not interrupt others when they are speaking and avoid making comments.
- Each person speaks about their own experience in their country and within Catholic Action.
- We should aim for brief and clear contributions

WORKING PROCEDURE

2 Prayer — 3 min

- Let us place ourselves in God's presence.
- We listen to his Word:

> *Approaching them, Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, to the end of the age'.*
>
> **Mt 28:18-20**

3 Personal preparation — 5 min

- Having listened to what the synodal process is asking of us and enlightened by our various experiences, in prayer and as we listen to what the Holy Spirit is asking of us, each of us prepares our own contribution in response to this question:

What call do I feel to continue growing in synodality in my home community?
How can we do this together as the International Forum of Catholic Action?

Try to be specific.

- We will observe a few minutes' silence; we may take notes and write down what we intend to share later.

4 First round 25 min

"Speaking and listening"

- Each person speaks simply, drawing on their own experience and prayer, and listens attentively to the contributions of others (maximum 3 minutes per person)
- After every four contributions, we will observe a minute's silence to reflect on what has been said.

Silence and prayer · 1 min — At the end of this first round, we observe a minute's silence to let what we have heard resonate in our hearts.

5 Second round 11 min

"Making space for others and for the other"

- Each person shares, drawing on what others have said, what has resonated most deeply or what has stirred the greatest resistance within them, allowing themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit: 'When, whilst listening, did my heart burn within my breast?' (maximum 2 minutes per person)
- This is not about adding what we didn't have time to say earlier, introducing new points or delving deeper into our own experiences, but rather about what has been stirred within us by what we have heard
- After every four contributions, we observe a minute's silence to reflect on it inwardly

Silence and prayer · 1 min — At the end, we observe a minute's silence to allow what we have heard to resonate in our hearts.

6 Third round 20 min

'Building together'

- We engage in dialogue together, building on what has emerged previously, to discern and gather the fruit of our conversation in the Spirit: recognising insights and points of agreement, identifying disagreements, obstacles and new questions; allowing prophetic voices to emerge.

  "What steps is the Spirit calling us to take together?"

- We will write a final report reflecting what was discussed in the group and answering the initial question, which we will share with the whole Assembly. Maximum length: one page (approximately 350–400 words, 2-minute presentation)

How can we continue to grow in synodality through the International Forum of Catholic Action?

7 Closing prayer of thanksgiving 4 min