Sample Listening Session Introduction

Good morning, and welcome to this Official Listening Session.

I know that some of you attended the Information Session in your parish or via Zoom. This is different. It is an actual listening session.

As you know, Pope Francis has launched the largest consultation in the Church and certainly the world when you think of all the countries, parishes, movements, ministries, and religious in huge numbers across the globe.

Our input as religious is significant. Because of our ministries, years in service and experience, we have a lot of ideas to move the Church forward, and we need to share them.

The overarching question Pope Francis asks is, “What is the Holy Spirit asking of the Church of the 21st Century?” In other words, How do we share the Gospel with people of all ages today? What are the things that are strengths in the Church, globally and locally, and what need to change? He asks us to take time to listen and discern. That is why we sent the pages to you ahead of time, to prayerfully discern how the Holy Spirit is moving you to listen and give input.

The process is very disciplined so we need to be succinct and to the point. It is not a process to SOLVE issues but to put needs forward.

Please look at your papers:

* There are 3 Breakout Sessions
* Facilitator

I ask one of you to volunteer as a facilitator. The purpose is to make sure that everyone has a chance to speak.

* Scribe

I ask another to be the Scribe or Reporter who will take notes on the paper you received. You do not need to take every comment down but in the last 5-7 minutes of each Breakout Room, please summarize your thoughts.

We will begin with Prayer lead by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, followed by a short video from Cardinal Tobin explaining the Synod process.

Then we will move into Breakout rooms. I will introduce the questions for each breakout session. If on Zoom, I will give alert you to an indication when we have 10 minutes left and it is time to start summarizing.

**Question 1:**

* **Core Question One:**

**How is this “journeying together” happening today in your religious**

**community and ministry? Recall your experiences**

* What are the ways you have experienced “walking together” in the Church in your various ministries?
* What have been difficulties or obstacles about ministry in the Church for you?

**Question 2:**

* **Pope Francis’ Core Question TWO:**

**How are we “walking together” as a Church, and what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?**

* What is the Holy Spirit asking of the Church today?
* What do you think Pope Francis most needs to hear from Women and Men Religious?
* What are 3 steps you feel the Church needs to take to respond to the Holy Spirit and the needs of today?

**Question 3:**

* **Local Question**

**How are we “walking together” as a Church of the Archdiocese of Newark,**

**and what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our**

**journeying together?**

* How can the Archdiocese of Newark and our institute work together to grow more collaboratively and support each other.
* **Leadership Conference for Women Religious**

**In light of all the sharing you heard on the Synod on Synodality theme,**

**Communion, Participation and Mission, what is most important to you that**

**the LCWR feeds back to the synod process?**

Thank you for participating.

There is no doubt that you will be honest, yet creative.

**Let us begin!**