



CONVERSATION AND CONSULTATION-PART II, WINTER-SPRING 2023

Participant Guide

Background

During the fall of 2022, more than 135 conversation groups comprising more than 1,250 Jesuits and lay colleagues met in works and Jesuit communities throughout the province to reflect on and share how the Spirit is present in their work today and how the Spirit may be calling their work into the future. In early January, 2023, the Apostolic Planning Steering Committee met for two days to reflect on and learn from the reports submitted by more the conversation groups. In doing so, the Committee identified four Apostolic Directions and two underlying questions that emerged powerfully from these conversations; these are presented in the accompanying document “Apostolic Directions and Questions”

We are inviting you now to reflect on these directions and questions, share your reflections in conversation with others, and report the fruits of your conversation to the Steering Committee in preparation for the June Apostolic Planning *Conversation and Consultation* at Loyola Marymount University.

Preparation

In the days prior to your meeting, please set aside some quiet time for reflection. Specifically:

1. Read and reflect upon Sean Carroll's letter of February 10, 2023, that accompanies this guide, noting any thoughts or questions that come to mind as you do so.
2. You may also wish to read and reflect on the accompanying excerpt from *The Formula of the Institute of the Society of Jesus* (1550). This document is the equivalent of our modern day “Articles of Incorporation.” The excerpt states the purposes of the organization.
3. Then read and reflect on the “Apostolic Directions and Questions,” especially as it touches upon your own and your colleagues’ ministry and work. Specifically:
 - a. What resonates with me? What excites me? What gives me hope?
 - b. What are some ways we might further support and animate these directions through existing or new initiatives in our ministry and work?
 - c. What might be the principal challenges for us in pursuing such initiatives?
4. Either during or following your reflection, you may wish to jot down some notes to aid your sharing at the meeting.

Conversation and Consultation Meeting

Your meeting will be facilitated by one of your colleagues, and will follow this format:

1. Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen.

2. **Review of Purpose and Process**
3. **Sharing I:** Participants are invited to share, at will, the fruits of their reflection. While one member is sharing, others listen attentively, noting what they are hearing and feeling.
NB: *Participants are asked to refrain from making any responses, either of agreement or disagreement, and from asking any questions during this part of the meeting.*
4. **Sharing II:** Participants are invited to share, at will, their experience of listening to others:
 - a. What did I hear that excited me? Consoled me? Challenged me?
 - b. What themes in common did I notice in the sharing?
 - c. What did I learn from others? What insights occur to me?**NB:** *Participants are to asked limit their sharing to what was heard in the first round only, and to refrain from responding directly or making “counter-arguments” to another person’s sharing.*
5. **Review:** Group members are invited to reflect back on the sharing that has taken place during your meeting and seek agreement on these two questions:
 - a. How would we summarize our responses to the Apostolic Directions?
 - b. What suggestions do we want to offer to the Province as we continue apostolic planning?