

GROUNDING OUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES, IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY AND IGNATIAN DISCERNMENT

Conveners David Romero, SJ and Cindy Reopelle

Number of Meetings: 2

Committee Members

Jen Coito
Steve Corder, SJ
Lisa Dennison
Pat Lee, SJ
Chi Ngo, SJ
Megan Pryor Lorentz
Lori Stanley
Colin Price

Possibilities

There are so many ways that the Spiritual Exercises are experienced throughout the Province - important to continue and sustain these opportunities.

Creating ways to discern as a region
Jesuit apostolates working and discerning together

Young people engage in the Spiritual Exercises differently - create new ways to engage the youth. A couple examples: the youth are less interested in "member organizations", but more interested in online possibilities.

Providing time and opportunities for people that work in Jesuit ministries to engage in retreats grounded in the Spiritual Exercises. A way of proceeding could be that spiritual development is as important as professional development.

The gift of Zoom - especially for gathering big groups across a large region.

Collaborating within sectors - and also connecting different sectors.

Regional spirituality leader or spiritual collaborative

Focus on one of the UAPs together as a region

People and Resources

A coordinator for each region - that would work with the Jesuit apostolic works in a particular region (gather, collaborate, animate)

Collaboration

Collaboration is essential: listening, gathering, accompanying, going to depth, deliberate and intentional.

The collaboration needs to be genuine and respected.,

Regional collaboration strongly resonated with our committee as a necessary and effective approach. Some members experienced the movement of the Spirit in their regions.

Challenges Obstacles and Pitfalls

The Province is so big.

How do we do this as a Province?

People are busy?

How to effectively foster a culture of discernment?

The complexity sometimes overwhelms people

Are people ready to be open?

Expanding our understanding of the Spiritual Exercises - and creating ways to bring the Exercises out to the world

We need to talk about Jesus - who Jesus is - what does a particular region need.

Apostolic Models

Regional

By sector

Connecting sectors through an experience of the Spiritual Exercises

Collaboration with Jesuit and lay companions

Distinctive and Unique Role of Jesuits

Ability to bring a deep and meaningful experience of the Spiritual Exercises to the conversation.

Share their commitment and experience of the Exercises to their lay companions.

Partner with lay companions in bringing the Exercises to the apostolic works

Questions & Topics for Province Gathering

How do you make this a prayerful experience?

Avoid focusing on the end result - practice discernment.

Prayerful, spiritual conversation

What are the tensions in our regions?

Ask the right questions?

Possibly gather in regions

Talk about what is most important

Conversation about Jesus - who is Jesus? who is the Society of Jesus?

Depth of prayer

Use the Spiritual Exercises to guide this meeting

Though difficult in a short amount of time and in a big group - prayer and discernment are very important

What is genuine discernment?

Is there anything else that your committee would like to add to this report?

The clear themes that emerged from our committee meetings are:

regional models, work, gatherings are most important

prayer and discernment are essential

collaboration is key to success and effectiveness