

On Listening

When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know.
But if you listen, you may learn something new.

The Dalai Lama

The ultimate benefit of genuine listening:
you honour the other person.

Source unknown

Humility in listening must correspond to courage in speaking. I told the young people in the pre-Synod Meeting: "If you say something I do not like, I have to listen even more, because everyone has the right to be heard, just as everyone has the right to speak".

*Pope Francis at the Opening of the Synod of Bishops
(3 October 2018)*

In this Liverpool 2020 Synod, following Pope Francis, we want to come up with bold and creative ways, courage to speak openly and honestly, without hesitation, without polite deference, the freedom to speak candidly and honestly without holding back, while listening with humility, with an open heart to the other. This is real dialogue. The Synod is a space for genuine dialogue and discernment [sifting].

But what is Dialogue? What is Discernment?

Dialogue is a conversation on a common subject between two or more persons with differing views, the primary purpose of which is for each participant to learn from the other something new about reality so that each can change and grow.

Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp

Teach me to listen, O God, to myself.

Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside – in the deepest part of me.

Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice –

in busyness and in boredom, in certainty and doubt, in noise and in silence.

Teach me, Lord, to listen.

Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me,
my family, my friends, my co-workers.

Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is:

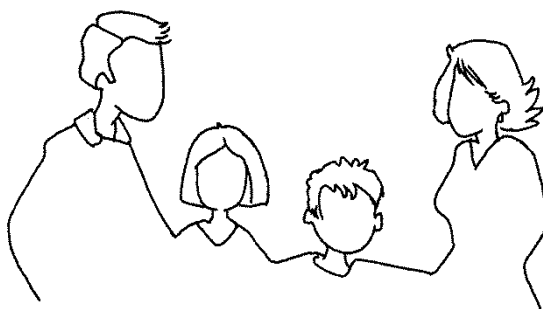
"Accept the person I am. Listen to me".

Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me –

the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of the forgotten, the cry of the anguished.

Amen.

Fr John Veltri SJ



SYNOD 2020
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