SMALL GROUP PROCESS: CORE QUESTIONS

Small Group Sharing on Discerning and Deciding

In a Synodal style, we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community. Synodal style of decision-making is to listen first, dialogue, pray, discern, and then the pastor makes a decision on behalf of community. A Synodal Church does not make decisions to accomplish pre-identified priorities. "In a Synodal Church, the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyze, dialogue, discern and offer advice on making pastoral decisions which correspond as closely as possible to God's will." (Vademecum no. 1.4)

- *How does your parish use the methods of listening and speaking (consultation) to make decisions?*
- *How does your parish promote participation in decision-making within the hierarchical structures of the Church?*
- *Do the decision-making methods of your parish help you to listen to all members of the community, including those who are on the peripheries of parish life?*