

PARTICIPANT GROUND RULES



Respectful Communication Guidelines (from the USCCB)

R: take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel, and speak with words others can hear and understand

E: use EMPATHETIC listening, not just words but also feelings being expressed, non-verbal language including silence

S: be SENSITIVE to difference in communication styles

P: PONDER on what you hear and feel before you speak

E: EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions

C: maintain CONFIDENTIALITY

T: TRUST the process because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong but to experience true dialogue

The Invitation Method is a way to include all people in the conversation in a very respectful atmosphere. While each person is speaking, the others listen. No one may interrupt the speaker or jump in to speak without being invited by name.

The Respectful Communication Guidelines are from, *Intercultural Communication: The Mutual Invitation Process* found in: USCCB, *Building Competence for Ministers: Bilingual edition. Washington, D.C., 2014* accessible at: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/cultural-diversity-church/bicm-appendices>.

Facilitator & Note Taker Roles

The role of listening session facilitators is to guide the conversations. Please listen to their instructions. There will be a secretary at your table taking notes. The notes will be anonymous. The notes from all of the small groups at your parish listening session will be summarized into one parish report. This parish listening session report will be sent to the Diocese where staff will create a summary of all parish listening sessions.