



CONVERSATION CIRCLES GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Church Wants to Listen...

Where do we start?



**PREPARE
HEARTS**



**PREPARE
MINDS**



WHO?

Parish Roles and Responsibilities

- ❑ Pastor names a Coordinator
- ❑ Form small Committee
- ❑ Identify Conversation Circle Facilitators & Reporters
- ❑ Preparation

**HELP
WANTED**

For the role of 'Facilitator' a person who:

- Is faithful, prayerful, and reflective**
- Has effective communication skills**
- Has strong interpersonal skills**
- Can focus a conversation that connects participants with each other without becoming the centre of the conversation**

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HELPFUL TIPS FOR FACILITATORS

- Establish ground rules and expectations:
 - ❑ Treat others with reverence and respect
 - ❑ This is a safe place to talk
 - ❑ Listen with an open mind, look at the person speaking, and listen without thinking of your next words
 - ❑ One person speaks at a time; allow some silence after each speaker
 - ❑ Stay on topic, speak briefly
 - ❑ Maintain confidentiality, when you tell others about the experience do not attribute ideas to particular people
 - ❑ The goal is dialogue - avoid arguing/comments that seek to advance a personal agenda
- Allow an opportunity for everyone to share at least once
- Gently redirect/re-focus a speaker who gets off topic or talks more than others
- Be aware of timing and keep things moving

Recorders

- Not a minute-taker
- Point form - themes, issues, insights
- Should also participate in the conversation



HOW?