

'NINE INSIGHTS INTO OUR ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS'

14 October 2018 - 28th Sunday Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 2018 SYNOD

For around three weeks in October, the [2018 Synod on Youth](#) is being held in Rome. Delegates reflect on input already received from prior consultations and from what they have heard already during the Synod.

And they meet in language groups to discuss further and put forward a message back to the whole Synod.

For example, those who have a common language of English, meet and debate in English. Because there are so many who speak English, they are placed in one of four English language groups.

A team is selected to bring together the insights of each group and prepare a common document for the next part of the Synod in progress.

The discussions in different languages include:

Italian language groups A, B and C

German language group

Portuguese language group

Spanish language groups A and B,

French language groups A, B and C

English language groups A, B, C and D

The groups have discussed many issues so far, including the views of young people, women in leadership, family, the relationship between women and men, social media, pressures on youth, sexuality, migration, racism, lifestyle, church sexual abuse, evangelization, school education, witness, mission, the Middle East, urban and rural differences.

Let us read some of the comments from the language discussion groups.

Among the many issues discussed by the *Portuguese language group* was evangelization in the university and digital world environments.

They said that *"The Church needs to be present in this environment through the young people themselves."*

Among the many issues discussed by the *Italian language group C* was the Church's need to be committed in *"the rebalancing of the relationship between man and woman"*

Among the many issues discussed by the *German language group* was the stress experienced by young people *"the stress at school, the stress caused by the Church, by our parents' expectations, by peer groups or the stress which ensues when a young person admits that he or she is a Catholic"*.

Among the many issues discussed by the **French language group B** were issues of sexuality and that *“The Church is called to update her teaching on these themes knowing that she is a servant of the mercy of God,”*

Among the many issues discussed by the **English language group A** was church sexual abuse and *“The shattered trust, the trauma and lifelong suffering of survivors; the catastrophic failures in case management; the continued silence and denial by some of these awful crimes and sins - these issues cry out to be named openly by the Synod.”*

Among the many issues discussed by the **English language group B** was the need for the whole Synod to release a message to world youth, saying *“we want to listen to you, we are sorry for our failures, we love you and have faith in you, we want to walk with you in hope.”*

Among the many issues discussed by the **English language group C** was the need for the church to listen to young people in *“a ministry of listening?”*

Among the many issues discussed by the **English language group D** was the digital migration of those young people moving *“away from family, cultural, and religious values into a world of privacy and self-invention. Just as many immigrants feel uprooted from their spiritual homes, so many young people in the West can experience the same kind of rootlessness, even while remaining physically in place.”*

Let us pause and each of us add silently our own insights. [PAUSE]

Now, let us together see what today’s Gospel says.
We read the Gospel twice.
On the first time we slowly read and imagine it.

On the second time, we look for the steps of dialogue in the passage between Jesus and the man,
and between the disciples and Jesus.

GOSPEL OF MARK 10:17-30

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder;

You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal;

You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud;

Honor your father and mother.”

He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said,

“You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
“How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”
And the disciples were perplexed at these words.

But Jesus said to them again,
**“Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!
It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”**

They were greatly astounded and said to one another,
“Then who can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said,
**“For mortals it is impossible, but not for God;
for God all things are possible.”**

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”

Jesus said, **“Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house
or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields,
for my sake and for the sake of the good news,
who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age
—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields,
with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.’**

INSIGHTS FROM TODAY’S GOSPEL PASSAGE

We might note at least **nine** parts to the process of encounter in today’s Gospel passage, including

1. Recognition of the issue raised by the man who ran up to Jesus.
“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
2. Jesus calls him into dialogue and reminds him of living the commandments
3. The man affirms that he lives out the commandments
4. *‘Jesus, looking at him, loved him’*
5. then Jesus points out what he is lacking.
6. The man reflects on what Jesus has said
7. The decision to follow through or not – the man goes away grieving as he doesn’t accept the invitation to grow further
8. Discussion later between Jesus and the disciples in the context of the kingdom of God
9. Believing as Christians that nothing is impossible to God.

We observe that the passage begins with the man’s question on inheriting **eternal life** and concludes with the hundredfold increase in this life, and in the age to come, **eternal life**.

We reflect on how these stages could be applied to the Australian 2020 Plenary Council.

[PAUSE]

PLENARY COUNCIL

As church in Australia, we are invited into a major consultation as we prepare for the [Plenary Council in 2020](#).

Between now and March 2019, our Parish Pastoral Council invites all parish members to respond to the question –

‘What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?’

In the newsletter this weekend are details and the Plenary contact.

At the end of each church row today are small notes on which you might like to write down your current response to the question.

There are collection baskets available at the church doors for your individual responses. Or you might like to think about it during the next week and return your response next week.

In the near future, we will have venues and times available for those wishing to be part of group discussion.

Some brochures are available at the tables near the church door.

Our Parish Pastoral Council undertook the group experience last Monday evening.

They formed 2 groups and went through the suggested process, and forwarded their responses online to the Plenary Council link.

We have opportunities

- to respond individually
- to respond in small groups
- to give the details to Catholics we know who don't come to church, and invite them to respond online or by post
- to respond as a faith community

Emma will advise our youth ministry groups soon about opportunities for group responses.

All parish ministries are invited to take up the opportunity to respond.

We are all invited to share the process with others who have stopped coming to church as their responses are important too.

NINE INSIGHTS

RETURNING TO TODAY'S GOSPEL, HOW DOES GOD'S WORD INSPIRE US?

Over the months ahead let us remember **nine** of the insights from today's gospel

1. Recognition of the issues we raise and the challenges we face
2. Listening to Jesus as he calls us into dialogue and reminds us of living the commandments today
3. We recall the ways in which we already live out the Gospel
4. We realize that Jesus is gazing at us and loving us.

We take the time in prayer to feel the gaze of Jesus upon us, and to feel the love of Jesus for us.

As the Gospel passage says 'Jesus, looking at him, loved him'

5. We listen as Jesus points out what we lack.
6. We reflect on what Jesus says to us
7. We discern future action and changes we need to make as disciples and as a church community
8. We discuss together the outcomes in the context of the kingdom of God
9. We believe wholeheartedly as Christians that nothing is impossible to God.

Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/101418.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook14102018>]

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