



NOTES FOR GROUP FACILITATORS

Be a person of prayer- pray for the group/ members and the process.

Remain neutral during the process.

Encourage attentive listening, so that the voice of the Holy Spirit can be heard through the group.

Create a quiet, safe atmosphere - where prayer and silence are encouraged so participants have time to reflect thoughtfully on what each person has said.

Outline the guidelines:

- Any personal sharing in the group, stays with the group
- Every response/ sharing is valid
- Everyone will have the opportunity to share - but there is a time limit, so please be succinct/ stick to the point
- Every person will be heard with no interruptions or reactions
- There will be a time of quiet after each sharing
- This is primarily a sharing and discernment process, not a discussion group

Keep order: ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share, that no-one dominates the process and people are not interrupting others while they are sharing

Ensure listening: encourage quiet reflective time after each sharing; You may like to state, "we will now have two/three minutes of quiet while we reflect on what we have heard."

Bring together what has been said: keep note of key ideas, suggest the scribe read out the themes/ ideas that have been mentioned so far, ensure everyone is happy their ideas have been included in the final notes.

Please refer to page 12 of the Synod Booklet: **GROUP DISCERNMENT**
A Spiritual Conversation

Contact us if you have any questions about the process.
Email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz

