

XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS  
**Young People, the Faith  
 and Vocational Discernment**

*Implementing Synodality: Unpacking the Universal Church's Recent Work  
 on "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment"*

Hosted by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the Southeast Pastoral Institute for Hispanic/Latino Ministry (SEPI), the Catholic Apostolate Center (CAC), in collaboration with the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

**Christ is alive!  
 He is our hope,  
 and in  
 a wonderful way  
 he brings youth  
 to our world.**

*Synod Series 3: "What Things?" The Sacred Act of Listening*

Host: Darius Villalobos  
 Panelists: Roy Petitfils, Ansel Augustine, Chika Anyanwu, and Gabriela Karaszewski  
 Moderator: Michael Theisen

**Lord Jesus**  
 in our Synod journey, your Church  
 turns her attention to all the young people of the world.  
 We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives,  
 aim for the most beautiful and profound things of life  
 and always keep their hearts unencumbered.

Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them respond to  
 the call you make to each of them,  
 to realize a proper plan of life and achieve happiness.  
 Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams  
 and make them concerned for the good of others.

Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross,  
 to receive your Mother as a gift from you.  
 May they be witnesses to your Resurrection  
 and be aware that you are at their side  
 as they joyously proclaim you as Lord.  
 Amen.


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### Why is Listening Important?

- Heals wounds
- Validates people at the deepest level
- Changes the brain

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### Why is Listening Hard?

- Attention
- Time – not very efficient
- Ego wants to fix, control

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### What Does It Look Like?

- Intentional
- Micro conversations 1:1
- Homilies, reconciliation, 1:many

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**Pope Francis Models Listening**

- Survey to young people
- Pre-Synod = *Instrumentum Laboris*
- Synod: YA auditors
- Final Document
- *Christus Vivit*
  - Chapter 3 – “Some experiences of young people”

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**Listening to the Needs of Young People**

71. *Youth is not something to be analyzed in the abstract. Indeed, “youth” does not exist: there exist only young people, each with the reality of his or her own life. In today’s rapidly changing world, many of those lives are exposed to suffering and manipulation.*

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**Listening as a Form of Pastoral Ministry**

244. ... *Belief in the theological and pastoral value of listening entails rethinking and renewing the ways that priestly ministry is ordinarily exercised, and reviewing its priorities. The Synod also recognized the need to train consecrated persons and laypeople, male and female, to accompany young people. The charism of listening that the Holy Spirit calls forth within the communities might also receive institutional recognition as a form of ecclesial service” (132-FD)*

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**Listening as a Form of Pastoral Ministry**

246. *The same young people described to us the qualities they hope to find in a mentor, and they expressed this with much clarity. “The qualities of such a mentor include... **someone who actively listens to the needs of young people and responds in kind...** They should respect the freedom that comes with a young person’s process of discernment and equip them with tools to do so well.*

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## Listening, Practically Speaking

**Listening and Accompaniment**

291 ... *When we are called upon to help others discern their path in life, what is uppermost is the ability to listen. Listening calls for three distinct and complementary kinds of sensitivity:*

1. To the individual
2. By discernment
3. To perceive what is driving the other



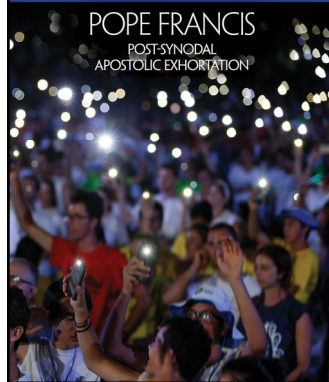
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## Listening, Practically Speaking

**Individual**

292 ... *It is a matter of listening to someone who is sharing his very self in what he says. A sign of this willingness to listen is the time we are ready to spare for others. More than the amount of time we spend, it is about making others feel that my time is their time, that they have all the time they need to say everything they want. The other person must sense that I am listening unconditionally, without being offended or shocked, tired or bored.*



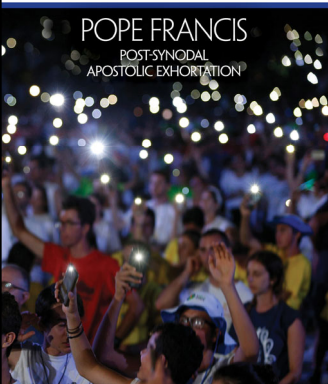
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## Listening, Practically Speaking

**Discernment**

293 ... *It tries to grasp exactly where grace or temptation is present, for sometimes the things that flit across our minds are mere temptations that can distract us from our true path. I need to ask myself what is it that the other person is trying to tell me, what they want me to realize is happening in their lives. Asking such questions helps me appreciate their thinking and the effects it has on their emotions. This kind of listening seeks to discern the salutary promptings of the good Spirit who proposes to us the Lord's truth, but also the traps laid by the evil spirit – his empty works and promises. It takes courage, warmth and tact to help others distinguish the truth from illusions or excuses.*



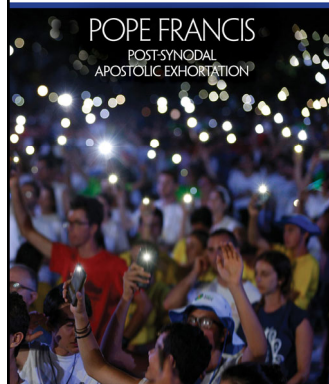
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## Listening, Practically Speaking


**Perceiving what is driving**

294 ... *This calls for a deeper kind of listening, one able to discern the direction in which that person truly wants to move. Apart from what they are feeling or thinking right now, and whatever has happened up to this point in their lives, the real issue is what they would like to be. This may demand that they look not to their own superficial wishes and desires, but rather to what is most pleasing to the Lord, to his plans for their life.*



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### Listening, Practically Speaking

**Perceiving what is driving**

296. *When we listen to others in this way, at a certain moment we ourselves have to disappear in order to let the other person follow the path he or she has discovered. We have to vanish as the Lord did from the sight of his disciples in Emmaus, leaving them alone with burning hearts and an irresistible desire to set out immediately (cf. Lk 24:31-33).*

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### Listening to Other Cultures

*"Young migrants experience separation from their place of origin, and often a cultural and religious uprooting as well" these countries are "losing their most vigorous and enterprising elements...migrants bring an opportunity for enrichment and the integral human development of all." (CV#93)*

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Welcoming  
↓  
Belonging  
↓  
Ownership

*Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers (USCCB)*

[www.nationaldialogue.info](http://www.nationaldialogue.info)

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Q & A


Visit the Christus Vivit Resource Site at:  
<http://nfcym.org/christus-vivit-resources>

A Four-Part Synod Webinar Series Presented in Partnership by



Catholic Apostolate Center  
 Reviving Faith • Rekindling Charity • Forming Apostles

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*Synod Series 4: "And Their Eyes Were Opened": Vocational Discernment*

Host: Darius Villalobos  
 Panelists: Andrew and Terri Lyke, John and Nicole Grosso, Br. Javier Hansen FSC,  
 and Sr. Debbie Borneman SSCM Moderator: Michael Theisen

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