

THE PROCESS OF FRANCISCAN DISCERNMENT

Franciscan discernment integrates community input, emphasising collective wisdom and a personal response to God's call. In Franciscan communities this process is sometimes referred to as a communal pilgrimage where members journey together in their quest to respond to God's call to live a life in harmony with Franciscan virtues (poverty, humility, peaceful relationships, care for the Earth).

USING THE FRANCISCAN DISCERNMENT MODEL

Step 1: PRAYERFUL LISTENING AND AWARENESS

The facilitator asks participants to take time in silence to listen to God's call through the readings of this reflection.

Step 2: REFLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING

The facilitator invites participants to share their ideas about building a synodal culture.

Step 3: DECISIVE ACTION IN HUMILITY

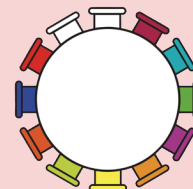
The facilitator asks participants to agree on three or four practical actions which could be embraced by the group going forward.

The facilitator gathers these ideas into a prayer of commitment.

Merciful God,
Source of goodness,
You show us in
Saint Francis a person
committed to synodality.
Teach us, we pray:
to embrace his love for all
people and all creation,
his compassion for the poor,
and his ability
to inspire others.
May we be inspired by his
words and actions
to rebuild our Church
through the actions
discussed in this meeting
(add the 3-4 commitments).
Amen.

The four key principles of the Franciscan discernment process

- Prayer and Openness to God's Will
- Community and Shared Wisdom
- Simplicity and Humility
- Action and Service



USE THIS PAGE TO MAKE NOTE OF ANY WORDS, PHRASES OR THOUGHTS SIGNIFICANT FOR YOU

What is God calling me to in this situation, and how can I open my heart to God's will?

How can I listen attentively to the voices of others and seek counsel from trusted companions?

What distractions or desires do I need to let go of to discern God's true path?

How can my decision lead to service that reflects God's love and brings peace to others?

[illegible]