



CONVERSATION METHOD

Opening:

Today, we will reflect on key factors impacting the Catholic Church globally and locally. Our goal is to deepen our shared understanding and discern potential actions. We'll proceed through four steps: Facts, Feelings, Meanings, and Actions. Please listen attentively to one another, and let's engage in a spirit of openness.

Step 1: FACTS – Focus on the data

Let's start by looking at the facts. Consider the socio-cultural issues impacting the expression of Catholic faith in Australia today.

- *What factors are influencing the global Church, as noted in John Allan's book, and how do they relate to our context?*

Please share what stands out to you from this information.

Step 2: FEELINGS – Personal Reactions

Now, let's move to our feelings.

- *How do you feel about the information we've just discussed?*
- *Are there any concerns or worries about the changes happening globally or locally in the Church?*

Take a moment to reflect and then share your initial emotional responses to these facts and trends.

Step 3: MEANINGS – Implications for our lives and ministries

Next, let's consider the meanings of these changes.

- *How will these shifts in society and the Church affect your life and ministry over the next 5 to 10 years?*
- *What are the most serious challenges we face as a community?*

Let's share our understanding of social change and the impacts on the Church.

Step 4: ACTIONS/ DECISIONS – Concrete steps

Now that we've reflected on the facts, feelings, and meanings, let's focus on action. What are one or two immediate steps we can take in response to the challenges we've discussed?

Let's discuss any new directions this group needs to take to address these issues?

Closing Prayer:

Let us now close with the prayer provided.