Ignatian Encounter Ministry

Conversation in the Spirit
Facilitator Script

This Conversation in the Spirit process can be used for an individual meeting or as part of a wider Conversation event, in-person or virtually. If part of a larger event, a main facilitator or team is responsible for Steps 1-4. If done individually, the facilitator addresses all steps.

Duration: 112 minutes

Schedule:

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer	5 mins
2. Overview of Conversation in the Spirit	10 mins
3. Reading and Affirming Ground Rules	3 mins
4. Introduction of Question and Examen	10 mins.
5. Conversation Process	70 mins
6. Naming the Graces	2 mins
7. Closing Prayer	2 mins.

Preparation

If conducting an individual Conversation in the Spirit, arrange 6-8 chairs in a circle with a prayer table in the center (this could include a candle, Bible, cloth cover, and symbol of your community). Provide notepads, pens, and name tags for each participant. Each conversation should have a facilitator and 6-7 participants. A notetaker is optional or the facilitator can take the final notes. If part of a wider in-person event, many circles of chairs can be arranged, or, if virtual, multiple breakout rooms can be used.

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Offered by the pastor or organizational leader in large events or the facilitator, if a single conversation.

Overview of Conversation in the Spirit

Facilitator or large group leader: *(this or similar words can be used)*

Tonight/Today's conversation is an invitation to listen deeply to one another and to the Spirit to discern how God is calling us to journey more closely together and live the Gospel more fully and authentically as individual disciples and the Body of Christ. Conversation in the Spirit is an invitation to be present to the Holy Spirit among us and within each of us. Notes will be taken at the end of your conversation to capture the points of consensus and divergence, actions and recommendations. These notes will be collected and considered as (this organization) *(and the wider Church)* continue to discern the will of God.

Before arriving here, you received information regarding the Conversation in the Spirit format and the main question and reflection materials. The conversation begins with naming the fruits of your prayer after reflecting on this question. Everyone will have an opportunity to speak and respond to one another. Still, even more importantly, all are invited to listen deeply, with the ear of your heart, to one another with compassion and attention, for this is how God relates to each of us.

We will begin with a reading of the Ground Rules for conversation. All are asked to affirm and abide by these ground rules. We will then introduce the reflection question for the first round of conversation. This will be followed by an Examen prayer to prepare us to enter prayerfully and reflectively into the conversation. At the end of the Examen prayer, you will be invited into a breakout room with others. A facilitator will join you to explain the conversation process in more detail and guide you along the way.

I pray that you have a grace-filled encounter with one another and the Spirit who is with us, longing to speak to our hearts.

Ground Rules: The *main facilitator reads the rules in a large assembly. All are asked to give affirmation. In an individual conversation, the facilitator reads the ground rules, and all are asked to affirm them. See Ground Rules document and slide.*

Introduction of Question(s): *The large group leader reviews the primary question(s).* ***This question should be familiar to all participants.*** *Participants received the questions a week before the event. This is only a review and focusing of the question.*

Examen: (*For large groups and virtual) After introducing the question, a delegated leader reads the Examen reflection slowly and meditatively. (For individual in-person) The facilitator introduces the question and reads*

the Examen. All are invited to close their eyes if they wish. The Examen is a meditative reflection to prepare for the consultation. See Examen prayer for text.

(In virtual events, all move to break out rooms after the Examen)

CONVERSATION PROCESS

Facilitator :

Welcome to our conversation. Thank you for joining. During the next 60 minutes, everyone will have the opportunity to share their reflections on the questions and to listen deeply to one another.

For the first round, you will each have **3 minutes** to respond freely and without interruption. Once everyone has spoken, we will share **a minute of silent reflection.** We will then have a second round. This will be an opportunity to name anything that resonated with you as you listened. You will have **2 minutes** for this round. We will then share another **minute of silent reflection**. In the final round, all will have an opportunity to name what you feel the Holy Spirit might be saying to us through this conversation. We will conclude by working together to reflect on our conversation and provide our report.

Let's begin by introducing ourselves. Please tell us your name and where you are from, and then we will get right to it.

Our first task is to organize ourselves ***alphabetically by first name***. This will be the order of our sharings. *(determine order together)*

We will now begin with our first round of conversation. Again, you will have up to **3 minutes** to respond. **I will indicate when you have 30 seconds left**. You are most welcome to take a few notes while others speak if this will help you to reflect more deeply.

In what ways is the synodal process enhancing your gifts and charisms as a woman (or man)?

How are the members and/or structures of your local Church actively embracing Pope Francis' call to be a synodal Church in mission?

What specific actions or changes would you propose and how could you personally contribute?

Please take a few moments to collect your thoughts. *(Silence for 20 seconds)*

1st round of sharing:

Now, we will begin our first round of sharing on this question. Anyone can start, but then we will continue in order. *(Provide a list of the order and post this list in the chat so all can see it clearly)*

(The facilitator keeps time and calls out 30 seconds. Affirming each speaker when they are finished and thanking them for their offering)

(After all have spoken) Let us take one 1 minute of silence now. Consider all that has been shared. What resonated most with you? What was particularly powerful? What struck you? What inspired you?
(One minute of silence)

2nd round of sharing

We now begin our second round of sharing. Anyone can start, and then we will follow the order of our introductions again. You will have up to **2 minutes** each. I will let you know when you have 30 seconds left.

The question for the 2nd round is:

What resonated most for you as you listened? What was most powerful? What moved you?

(All respond)

Let us pause for a minute to reflect on what you have heard in this round, where the Spirit has been present and prompting us and the Church to grow and respond. *(One minute of silence)*

3rd round of sharing:

We will now begin our final round of sharing. You have one minute for this final sharing. I invite you to share the fruit of this time of silence.

How is the Spirit prompting us and the Church to grow, act, and respond?

Again, anyone can begin, and then we will continue in order.

(All respond - 1 minute)

Final Thanks and Considering Graces:

Thank you all for being part of this conversation. Thank you for all you have shared, for your deep listening and for working together to discern the will of the Spirit among us. We will soon return to the large group, where you will have an opportunity to name the graces that you have experienced here. In the time remaining, I would invite you to review our conversation in your mind and heart and consider the graces of this time together.

End of Conversation. Return to the main room at this point.

Reporting

As a facilitator, you are asked to submit a final report on behalf of the group. To do this, use the link below. First, consider any notes you have taken and your recollection of the conversation, especially Round Three, and write in the form the Convergences that emerged, the Divergences that occurred and the Recommendations/Actions named by the group.

You have 24 hours after the conversation to submit the form.

Here is the Reporting Form:

Naming the Graces and Closing Prayer

Large Group Leader:

During our conversations, we have shared rich experiences of faith. We have discussed how we are journeying as disciples and as a community of faith and how we might do so more faithfully as we go forth from this sacred space. In thanksgiving for the gift that this conversation has been, I invite you to think of a specific grace you received or an insight you gained from this experience.

(pause)

As we conclude, I invite you to type these graces into the prompt on your screen as we create an image of the graces we have experienced and received.

(give a chance for all to respond. Music here could be included)

Thank you all for your response and all you have shared.
We will now close with a prayer:

Lord Jesus,
We give you thanks and praise for gathering us here today/this evening
And for speaking to us.
Give us the grace to live in communion with you and with each other,
To participate in the life of your Church,
And to advance your mission in the world.
May all we say and do be guided by your Spirit,
And may our lives and offerings bear much fruit.
We ask all this in your most holy name.
Amen.