



Spirituality of Synodality

*Synodality - A Journey of the
Unknown*

Fr. Donald Chambers

Opening Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen



SUMMARY

Synodality and Conversations

The Heart of Synodal
Journey: **Speaking +
Listening = Conservation.**
Conversation: The **Bridge**
connecting people who tell
and listen to stories.





- **Followers** of Jesus Christ: the content and style of conversation receives inspiration from the intimate relationship with Jesus in communion with the Church
- This relationship is guided by the **two-fold Christian practice of (1) contemplation and (2) action**
- **Contemplation:** Silent Listening to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying
- **Action:** How the Holy Spirit wishes followers to behave

Progression of conversations: From a I-centred to We centered Conversions

Level 1: Transactional
Conversation:
Information Exchange to
validate what I have
already know

Level 2: Positional
Conversation: A defense
of what I know.

Level 3: Transformational
Conversation:
Participants discover
what they don't know. It a
share-Discover dynamic.



Difficult Conversations & Synodal Journey

Participants bring differing **personalities, experiences, attitudes, spirituality, intentions, and emotions, etc**

Five Conversation Essentials

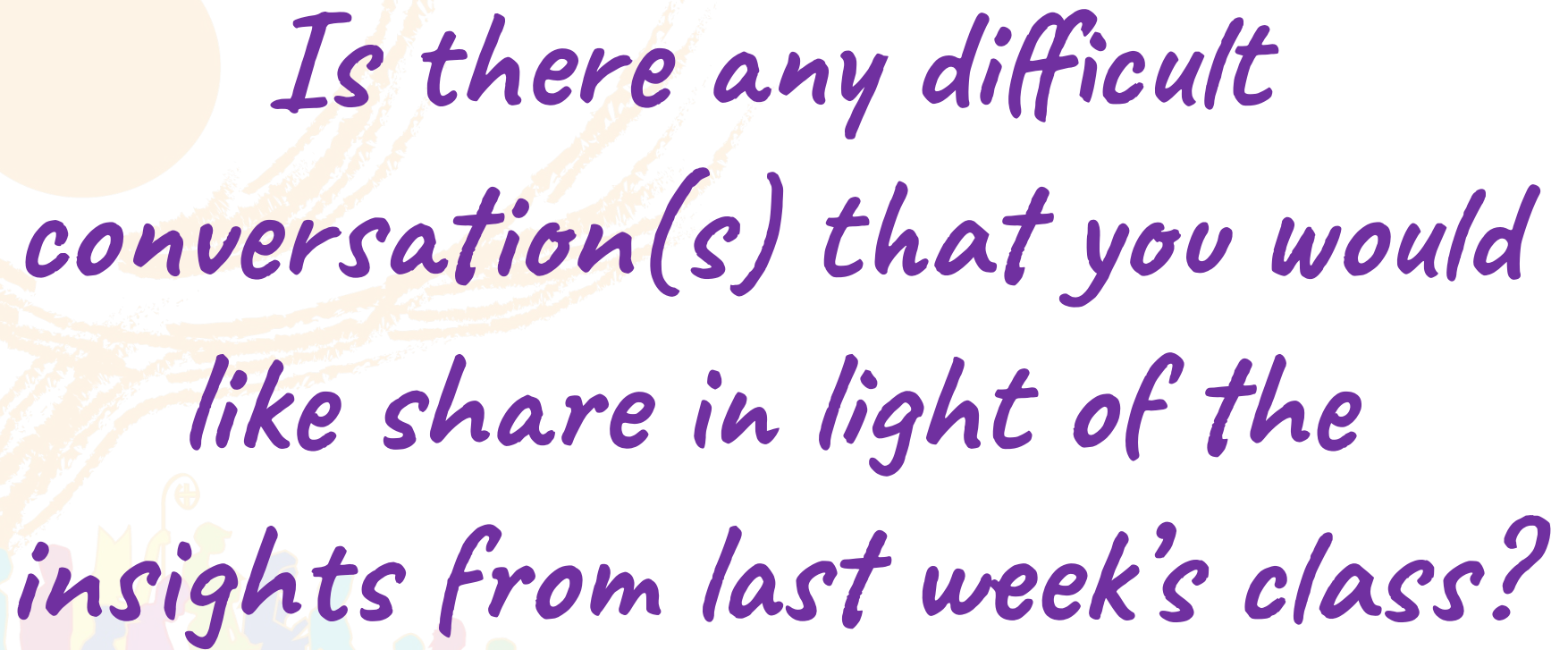
1. Priming or preparing for trust: Without active priming for trust, no other essential tools will be effective
2. Listening to connect: Asking questions such as: what are they trying to say? What are they thinking? What are they hoping you will help them explore? Can they say it in other words? I don't understand;
3. Ask questions for which you have no answers: Asking questions to guide people to where we want them to go. Allow self-awareness and self-discovery
4. 'Double-clicking' that is repeatedly asking, why? What does this mean? What else?

“To get to the next level of greatness, depends on the quality of the culture, which depends on the quality of relationships, which depends on the quality of the conversations. Everything happens through conversations.” Judith Glaser





Greatness
Just Ahead



*Is there any difficult
conversation(s) that you would
like share in light of the
insights from last week's class?*

Synodality – The Unknown Journey



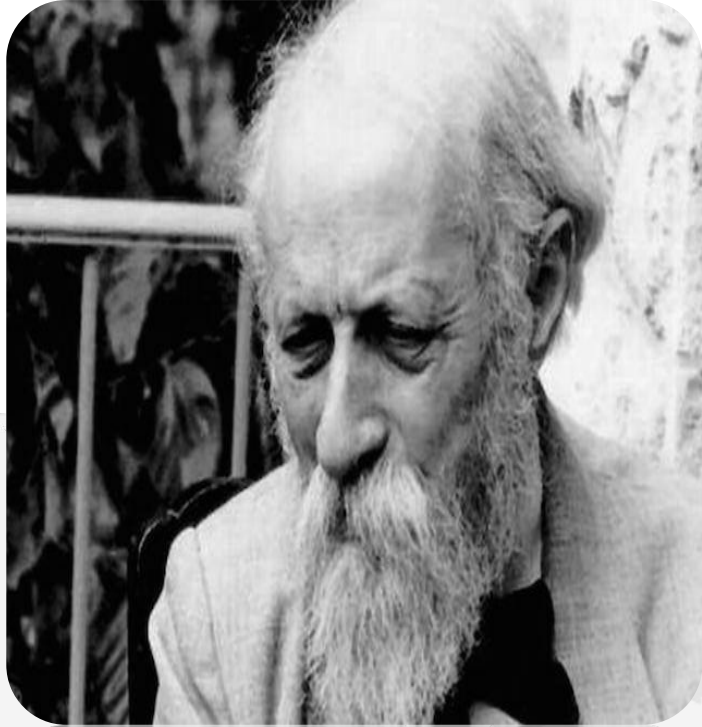
Cordina's rebuts this view noting that Pope Francis studied and taught pastoral theology (not dogmatic theology) at San Miguel de Buenos Aires in Argentina, and does not aspire **“to fulfil this role as a theologian but as a pastor . . .”**

What truly disturbed the detractors, he points out, is that “his theology stems from . . . the reality of injustice, poverty and the destruction of nature, and from the reality of ecclesial clericalism.”

Class Objectives

1. To explore the spiritual dimension of Unknown Journeys
2. To equip participants with the spiritual tools to needed for the Unknown Journey





“All journeys have a secret destination of which the traveller is unaware” (Martin Buber)

*Have you ever had a
hunch or an intuition
to pursue a dream?*



“Our internal GPS,
rooted in the
innermost recesses
of the soul, will guide
us to our destination
so long as we remain
steadfast in our
determination.”

(Estelle Frankle)



“What I hear at this moment is similar to what Isaiah hears God saying through him: Come, let us talk this over. Let us dare to dream”



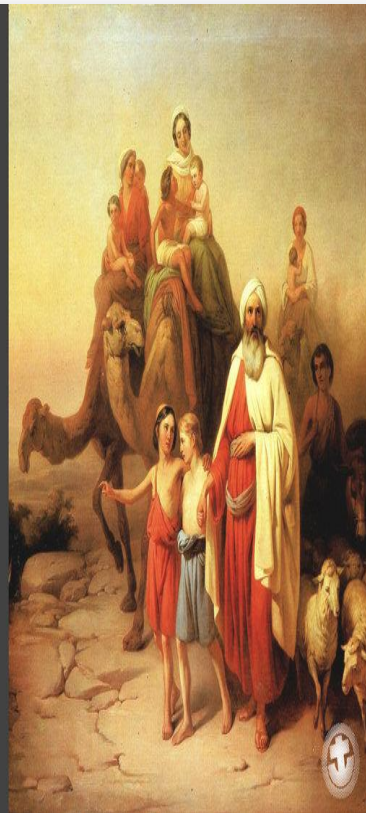
Pope Francis & Dreaming: A way of thinking that opens to the possibility of something new that the Holy Spirit is offering the Church. But to dream of a different future, he insists:

**“We need to choose fraternity
over individualism as the
organizing principle”
(Let us Dream)**

**The Call: To leave
the familiar
(homeland,
families, culture
and habits) for
the unfamiliar.**

THE POWER OF THE CALL

GENESIS 11:27-12:9



Key characteristics of Abraham and Sarah's Journey (Estelle Frankel)

1. Embark on the journey with faith



2. A transformed life - in all kinds of unanticipated ways when they step out into the unknown.



3. Require the **sacred use of imagination**, “the ability to see things that are not yet visible or manifest.”



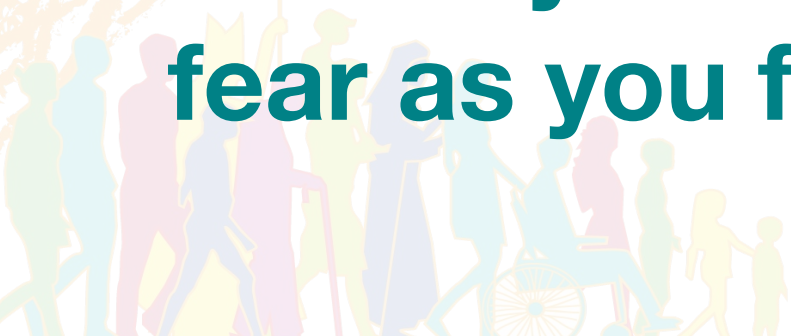
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Questions.org



“We feel we must disagree with those prophets of gloom, who are always forecasting disaster, as though the end of the world were at hand.”

***Prophets of gloom
partner with fear;
those who dream
partner with faith***

Recall an unknown journey on which you, your diocese, family, parish, or religious community, or ecclesial community embarked. How did you experienced faith and fear as you faced the decision?



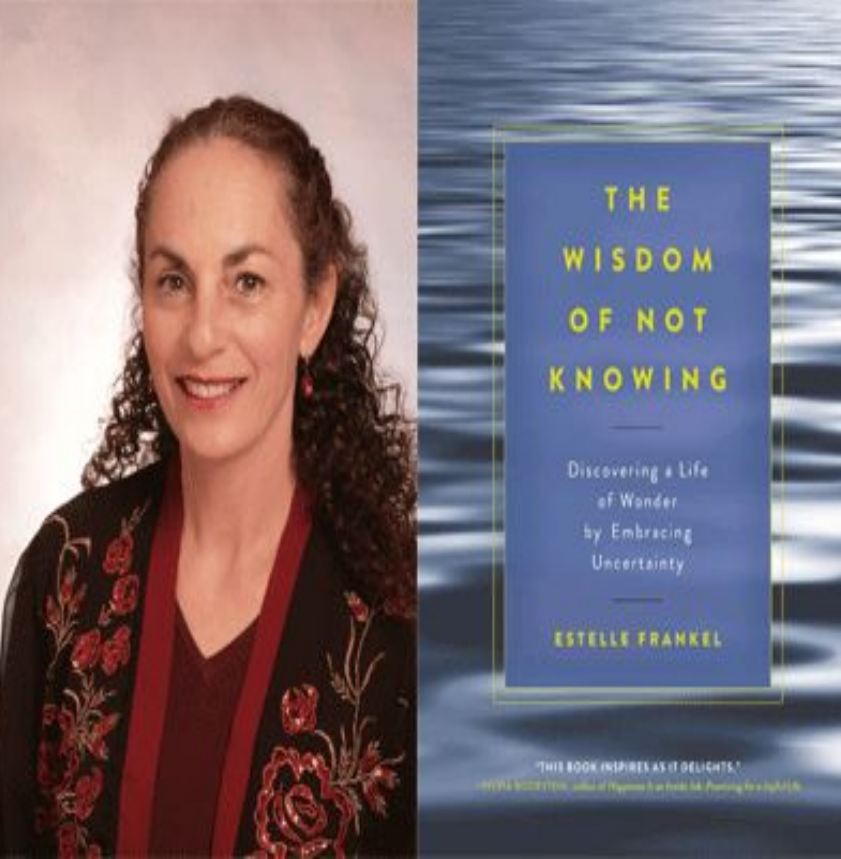
“What is fundamental and certain is that there is no synodality without spirituality because synodality places at its center the fact of walking together with Christ and listening to the Holy Spirit.”



Nathalie Becquart, Under Secretary for the Synod of Bishops

*It is in this spirit of dialogue
and openness, that the
movement of the Holy Spirit
reveals the secret destination of
the Church.*

SURPRISE!



- Estelle Frankel's book, *The Wisdom of Not Knowing*, to understand the synod journey.
- **“Divine uncertainty principle”**

GOD SAID TO MOSES,
“I AM WHO I AM.”

AND HE SAID, “SAY THIS TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL,

“I AM
HAS SENT ME TO YOU’.”

EXODUS 3:14

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YAHWEH-

IT'S MORE THAN A
NAME!

An idol, as the molten calf (Exodus 32) is, “can be fully known in all its dimensions for it is finite and measurable, while the living God and Source of all being and becoming can never be known in its entirety..”



“Instead of standing in the presence of mystery that is in a constant state of flux, ever changing and becoming, moment to moment, we seek to reduce God to a concept or ideas we can understand” (Estelle Frankle)



Frankel reminds us that the biblical metaphor for clinging to certainty, fixating on the past, and trying to control everything is idolatry – the reduction of that which is infinite to that which is finite. It manifests in our extreme admiration and reverence for something, someone or some idea.



“Our most authentic spiritual experiences can be turned into routinized religious ritual.”

(Estelle Frankle)



Rav Kook (Jewish mystic and theologian)

“Turning the
living God into
an idol...”



“In moments of anxiety or uncertainty, when we tend to seek comfort in old patterns and familiar habits, like the addict who reaches for his substance of choice when faced with stress or uncertainty...”

Estelle Frankle)



Pope Francis presents the metaphor of a pilgrim to demonstrate the importance of conversion in the synod journey. He says that a pilgrim is one who “goes out from herself, opens herself to a new horizon, and when she comes home, she is no longer the same, and so her home won’t be the same”

(Let us Dream, Pope Francis)



A blog from: belovedreflections.org: “Life – A Labyrinth”

<https://belovedreflections.org/2021/08/29/life-a-labyrinth/>



The background features three light gray, irregularly shaped abstract forms. Each form is outlined with a thick, textured orange brushstroke that has a hand-painted appearance. The shapes are positioned in the top right, middle left, and bottom right areas of the frame.

Thank You!