**Prayer for the Synod: *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus***

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.

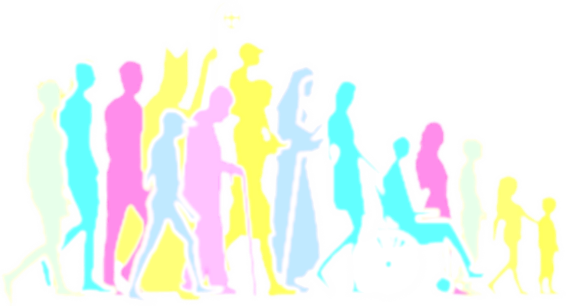
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life

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.

**Questions for Hour One**

1. **COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY (***In the Church and in society we are side by side on the same road*.
   1. In our local Church, who are the ones “journeying together”?
   2. Who are our companions on the journey, including those outside the boundaries of the Church?
   3. How are we called to grow as companions?
2. **LISTENING (***Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice*.)
   1. How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?
   2. How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people?
   3. What facilitates or inhibits our listening?
   4. How do we integrate the contribution of Consecrated Men and Women?
   5. What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?
   6. What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own?
   7. How do we listen to the social and cultural context in which we live?
   8. How well do we listen to those on the peripheries?
3. **SPEAKING OUT (***All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, in freedom, truth, and charity.)*
   1. What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society?
   2. When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?
   3. How does the relationship with the local media work (not only Catholic media)?
   4. Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?