



DISCERNMENT

(From Listening to Action)

Return to the larger group

Each small group briefly shares their **“We” perspective**, focusing on how they sense the Holy Spirit inviting them to respond.

Together as a BEC, identify **one simple “Move to Action”** to help the Word take root in daily life.

For example:

- As a family, share ways in reaching out to families not known or unfamiliar to us.
- As a BEC or a parish, plan joint activities with NGO whose core values matches yours.

Intercessory Prayer

Facilitator invites all to voice short intentions, for example:

- *“Lord, help us to build strong and loving homes where we support one another through life’s challenges despite our differences in personalities and opinions. (R)”*
- *Lord, teach us to cultivate patience, humility, and the willingness to forgive quickly to live together in harmony. (R)”*
- *Lord, help our home become a place of peace and encouragement, and may our family reflect Your love in our words and actions each day.*

Response: *“Lord, hear our prayer.”*

Closing Prayer

Dear Father, we pray for love within the family, help us to grow in mutual respect and recognize that true love is patience, kindness, and forgiving. Make our homes places of comfort, joy, and encouragement. Fill our hearts with genuine love so that every interaction reflects your grace. We ask this in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Bind Us Together, Lord

Chorus:

*Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together,
With cords that cannot be broken,
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together,
Bind us together with love.*

There is only one God,
There is only one king
There is only one body,
That is why we sing. (C)

Made for the glory of God,
Purchased by his precious Son;
Born with the right to be clean,
For Jesus the victory has won. (C)

You are the family of God,
You are the promise divine;
You are God’s chosen desire,
You are the glorious new wine. (C)

<https://youtu.be/muXncRB3Ebg?si=8bwdSg1gRUCORRhm>

BECReflection

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE:

FAMILY: REACHING OUT

Today, BECs can organise activities collaboratively with NGOs or charitable bodies, going beyond boundaries. These planned activities should include family-based events related to the marginalised and vulnerable groups in society. We must move outward by connecting with others leaving our comfort zones, carry out pastoral visits to parents experiencing ‘empty nest’ (emotions experienced when children leave home), offering support to people who require special care and towards those who no longer come to church.



Opening Prayer

Dear Mother Mary, we ask you to hear our prayer tonight. We ask you to gather every broken and wounded hearts in our families. Place our pain in Jesus’ hands, where we feel forgiveness is so far away from our hearts. Mother Mary, see the tears we cannot hide. Bring your love and heal our hearts again. We ask you to bless each and every member of our families and wrap them in your loving heart. We ask this in Christ our Lord. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING

Opening Hymn

Mother Mary heal my family

Mother Mary heal my family
Where our love has grown tired; There are
word we never answered,
There are wounds we keep inside
I have tried to hold us together, but I can't
do this alone
Take our hearts into your prayer
Bring our family back home (2 X)
Holy Mary stay beside us; Place our pain in
Jesus' hands
Where forgiveness feels so distant, help
our hearts begin again

**Chorus: Mother Mary heal my family
Bring our hearts back to peace
Lead our wounds to Jesus mercy
Let his love restore what's weak
Mother Mary heal my family
Teach our home to love again
Where we're broken, bring us healing
Where we're hurting, bring us grace**

For the marriage that is struggling,
For the child who feels far away
For the mother caring sorrow; For the
father scared to pray
Bless the names I hold in silence; Bless the
tears I cannot show
Mother Mary carry all of us
Where the mercy of Jesus flows,
where his mercy flows
Holy Mary pray among us
Softening every guarded heart
Let the peace of Christ come near us,
and make a new beginning start (C)

Pray for us when love feels fragile;
Pray for us when hope feels small
Take our anger; Take our sorrow;
Bring the peace of Christ to all
Not by our strength, not by our will,
but by his grace, our hearts are still
Mother Mary heal my family
Bring our hearts back to peace;
Lead our wounds to Jesus mercy
Let his love restore what's weak,
Mother Mary heal my family
Lead us gently to your son
Make our home a place of healing where
his love can make us one
Mother Mary heal my family
Lead us back to Jesus

<https://youtu.be/qhbFCDFXEL0?si=GL0JEtWf03xco9F>

Pastoral Pathway

Baptism makes a person a full member of the Catholic Church and unites them with other believers. All baptised persons share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ, calling them to offer their daily lives as a spiritual sacrifice. We take part in Christ's prophetic, priestly, and kingly mission by sharing the Christian faith and serving others. We are granted special spiritual graces and charisms from the Holy Spirit to build the church through mission. These invisible yet real gifts transform a person's relationship with God and the church, making the person a beloved child of God.

The Second Vatican Council calls the family "the Ecclesia domestica" - The Domestic Church. Joseph and Mary were Jesus's first teachers of faith, and he grew up in the embrace of a holy family. In the family, fathers and mothers are the initial guides who introduce their children to God through daily life, prayer, and personal witness of the faith. The home ground is first foundational school of Christian life that emphasises building the early structure of a child's spiritual life and developing values of sharing and reaching out.

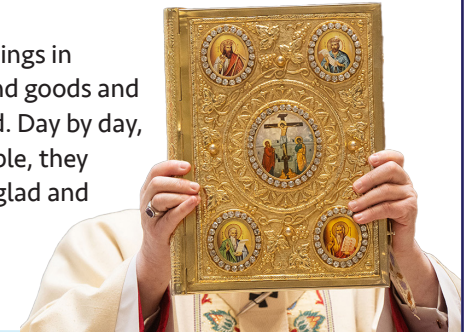
In our daily encounter with others, we must give people the space to feel valued and heard, discover ways to build trust and grow in empathy. Our social commitment includes helping communities with their daily struggles and challenges, protecting nature and Mother Earth, and guiding the People of God to make fair choices in society.

Pope Leo XIV appeals that we enhance human dignity, stating that "technology is never neutral, because it takes on the characteristics of those who devise, finance, regulate, and use it" (*Magnifica Humanitas*, no. 9). We must recognise that the human heart is the place where God desires to dwell. We must go beyond our boundaries and create a deeper relationship in accompanying others especially when help and support is needed.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:44-47

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.



DIALOGUING

(Conversation in the Spirit)

Form small groups of 4 to 6 persons. Observe one minute of silence between each round of sharing.

Round 1 – "I" Perspective

All are invited to share once only, for less than two minutes.
(No comments on others' sharing.)

Do I respect the dignity of others in the family?

(Thank each person after sharing. Observe one minute of silence.)

Round 2 – "You and I" Perspective

Participants respond to something they heard from another.

After hearing others:

- What touched me most in the sharing of others?
- Where do I see common struggles or shared hope?

(Observe one minute of silence.)

Round 3 – "We" Perspective

The facilitator invites the group to discern together.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to our BEC about going beyond boundaries to build bridges in the family and our neighbours?

(Thank each person after their sharing and observe 1 minute of silence before the next person continues)