

Role of the Table Facilitator

The Table Facilitator plays an essential role in guiding the *Conversation in the Spirit*. The primary task is to invite everyone at the table to participate, while also creating a safe and welcoming environment where people feel comfortable sharing. It is important to remember that some participants may choose to remain silent—and that is perfectly okay. The role of the Table Facilitator is simply to invite, not to pressure, and to help the group stay attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Table Facilitators also help the group follow the rhythm of the conversation. This includes keeping an eye on time, gently redirecting the discussion if it strays, and reminding participants to pause for prayerful silence between rounds. These moments of silence are important, as they give everyone an opportunity to reflect inwardly and notice any interior movements of the heart or the Holy Spirit. Your encouragement of both dialogue and deep listening helps ensure that the conversation remains prayerful and attentive to God's guidance.

It is equally important to guide participants away from habits that can disrupt the Spirit-led process. Conversation in the Spirit is **not** a place for debating, defending, or correcting others; advancing a personal agenda; teaching others; or searching for a "one right answer." Your role is to nurture a reflective, respectful, and prayerful space where the group can discern together. In doing so, you help create the conditions for genuine listening, dialogue, and shared discernment to flourish.

Invite everyone at the table to participate in the discussion.

- Keep an eye on time. Redirect if necessary to keep everyone on topic.
- Create an environment of openness where people feel comfortable in sharing.
- People may choose not to say anything – that's ok – your role as facilitator is to invite people to speak.
- Create the opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Encourage dialogue and listening at the table.
- Observe times of silence and prompt and remind those at your table of prayerful silence between rounds. Time for silence between rounds allows time to listen to any interior movements in one's heart and spirit.

Remind participants if necessary that this process is NOT a place for;

- Debating, defending or arguing
- Correcting others
- Feeling obliged to teach others, even if well-intended
- Advancing an agenda
- A search for the 'one right answer'

