



## **International Dominican Youth Movement Preparation for the Synod of the Bishops**

### Instructions:

- Gather as a group.
- Record or find a way of getting all the different perspectives from your group.
- Read the questions/themes and start talking about your own realities and what you think in each theme.
- Choose every situation that is present in your country and reflect about it. This is very important to understand all the countries' realities and figure out how we are, Dominican young people, answering to those realities and problems. If there is one situation in your country that is not on the list we suggest, please write about it.
- Write a document where you consider all (or mostly all) the reflections you have as group, trying to present the voice of everyone, even when you don't have the same views or reflections.
- The extent of the document you create does not matter. What is important is that you take your time to discuss and write the different views in your group so we can have the whole vision and answer from all the Dominican Youth in the world.
- We are looking forward to your response for our contribution in the Synod of the Bishops **on or before February 3, 2018 (Saturday).**

1. Considering the following themes and situation that can be detected in our society:
  - Poverty
  - Education
  - Unemployment
  - Precarious employment (right to have a decent salary, paid vacation and weekly day off)
  - Religious freedom
  - Health
  - Spiritual growth
  - Love relationships
  - Gender Equality
  - Youth in rural and urban contexts
  - Access to drinkable water
  - Nutrition
  - Weather and climate change
  - Renewable energies
  - Communitarian services and volunteerings
  - Childhood
  - Elderly people

- Recognition of dignity of minorities
- Indigenous people
- Migrants
- Political role and participation
- Humanitarian crisis
- Personal crisis (depression, anxiety)
- Racism
- Misogyny
- Homophobia
- Atheism
- Ecumenism (efforts of different Christians of different church traditions to develop closer relations and dialogue)
- Interreligious dialogue
- Sexual preferences
- Fundamentalism
- Existential questions
- Ecology and nature
- Human rights
- Sports
- Culture
- Science
- Technology
- Relation between members of the church (different orders or congregations of the church)
- Religious syncretism (blending 2 or more religious beliefs into a new system, or incorporation into a religious tradition of beliefs of unrelated traditions).
- Abortion
- Teenage pregnancy
- Single parenthood or motherhood
- Pornography
- Drugs
- Forced and arranged marriages

***What questions arise from your various contexts which pose challenges to your faith, and why?*** (How your faith can help in those situations? What answers do you give, from your faith, to those topics? What else can you do?)

2. Thinking about the Dominican spirituality:
  - Pillars of the charism
    - Community life
    - Prayer
    - Study
  - Contemplative experience
  - Experience of Dominican Family
  - Search for the truth
  - Democracy and government
  - Option for the poor
  - Option for Justice and Peace

- Go to the frontiers
- Link between theological reflection and human problems
- Importance of communication and to share
- Multicultural dialogue and experience

**How do those experiences/encounters, in a Dominican context or Christian formation background, help you to preach and answer to the realities discussed before?**

(You can share/cite an example on these topics)

Example from Dominican Youth Movement Spain:

Every Easter week we have our Easter Mission in a rural area around Caleruega (where our father St Dominic was born). The main purpose of this activity is double:

- on one hand internal for DYM members (and other youth willing to come and live the experience): to live the essence of these holy days through formation workshops and by taking over the preparation of all religious services of these days.
- on the other hand for people (normally aged) living in very small towns, of less than 150 inhabitants, in rural areas where one priest might have 10 towns, so Easter celebrations are not possible in most of them.

It is a great opportunity for us youth to learn and deepen in the sense of Easter at the time that we're able to share these days with other people.

We organize the activity in the following way:

We arrive on Wednesday afternoon and meet at the contemplative nuns monastery, where they share with us a prayer and send us to our preaching Easter mission.

Every morning we share our (internal) workshop - 4 hours to study, debate, reflect... in the sense of that day. These are prepared by youth, and sometimes also by sisters or friars. We have lunch all together, as the community as we are. Afterwards, each small community (maximum 9 youth + 1 friar - of course sisters are also welcome!), we go to our assigned town, which will normally be no farther than a 45 minute drive, and prepare the religious service of that day. We youth are in charge of having materials ready: songs, readings, prepare the church in collaboration with people of the town... and also we prepare a reflection on each day's readings from the point of view of our youth experience during these days. We try to learn as much as possible, that's why each group has a friar for mass and to give us any support needed in the preparation of the services.

Normally, in Spain, during that week many towns have their annual festival, so we try to join that day the activity there's in town (a dinner, or a party after the service).... It gives us a great opportunity to make community with the people of the town, get to know the town better and to have small talk with youth and elderly. Very nice conversations and ideas have come out of these chatting. People really appreciate that we try our best to blend in their activities at the time we bring them the possibility to have religious services in their own town.

It is a very enriching experience for all: us youth, and people in the town. Services are collaborative, deep... Youth in our movement really learn and enjoy, and "newcomers" normally have a great experience and join a group in the movement (of course it is not mandatory).

For us is an example on how to get to practice most of the topics stated above.