

Week 6: Dialogue in the Church and in Society - December 5, 2021

Theme 6: Dialogue in the Church and with society

Dialogue is a path that requires perseverance, and also includes moments of silence and suffering, but which is capable of gathering the experience of persons and peoples.

John 3,1-15 - Nicodemus Visits Jesus



3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.” **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ **8** The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.” **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

- ∞ Do we have places and times to talk to each other in our community?
- ∞ How do we deal with differences of opinion, disputes and difficulties?
- ∞ How do we encourage collaboration with neighboring dioceses, with religious communities in the region, with lay associations and movements, etc.?
- ∞ What are the problems in the Church and in society to which we need to pay more attention?
- ∞ What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with people of other religions and with people who have no religious affiliation?
- ∞ How does the Church enter into dialogue with other sectors of society (the political sphere, the economy, the world of culture, civil society, people living in poverty)? And how does it learn from these different sectors?

If you are interested in these questions, please send your answers by email to synode@diocesevalleyfield.org or give them to a responsible person in your parish who can forward them to me.

Thank you for your participation!

Mélanie Pilon, responsible for the synod for the diocese of Valleyfield