

Prophetic In Mission: Ready? Set? Go! **Facilitation Guide for Process**


(Provide booklet, cards, and pens)

20 Min. **Purpose:** To identify the questions that will reveal the answers of who we need to be and what we need to do to be prophetic in mission.

(Attitudes we bring are open mind, open heart, open will in order to be attentive to what is emerging. Theory U)

Exploring What It Means To Be Prophetic

- ✧ We will begin with a reflection on “*Prophetic Action*” from Joan Chittister. This is the first opportunity to use the attitudes of open mind, open heart, and open will in order to listen for what is emerging.
- ✧ Following the reading we invite you to move into personal reflection on Question #1 and either of the remaining questions in your booklet.
- ✧ Please note your responses in your booklet.
- ✧ In about 8 minutes we will move to the next step.

Reading: *Prophetic Action*  (8 minutes)

Personal Reflection: 

Mindful of Joan’s words and what we know about prophets...

1. What would a prophetic congregation look like at this time in history?
2. What might it mean to be a prophet today?
3. How/when have I experienced prophetic action in my life and/or within the congregation?

Sharing in triads: Each participant shares his/her response to Question #1 and the other question they chose. (5 minutes)

Sharing with whole group: Each participant shares response to Question #1 (7 minutes)

15 Min. **Ready? Ready Or Not, God Calls**

- ✧ When God calls, often prophets express reluctance and a sense that they do not have what it takes to be a prophet – “I don’t have the words; I’m too young, I’m too old; etc. and what other excuses do we offer...)
- ✧ We may experience this as well and, yet, God assures us in many ways that we are called even when we are skeptical or resistant or feel unworthy.
We were called to be prophetic at Baptism:
 - We have each been authorized and empowered through Baptism to be prophets who risk for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ. Our baptismal commitment is our “yes” to being prophets.

As described in the General Directory of You Are Sent:

- “The General Chapter is essentially a paschal event, inserted into the life and history of the church. The power and presence of the Spirit acting in the participants makes the chapter an event in the salvation history of the congregation. The chapter is an occasion for conversion and renewal for the entire congregation.”
- In the Call to Solidarity of the 22nd General Chapter we are called to be prophetic (ready or not).
*“We, the members of the 22nd General Chapter, together with School Sisters of Notre Dame throughout the world, embrace a new moment in our history ... we are ready, personally and communally, to risk all we are and all we have for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ.” **Call To Solidarity***

Our lived experience reminds us that we are called ready or not:

- While feeling too young, too scared, too old, too inexperienced we have experienced God still using us to be prophetic personally and communally.

Set? Believe It Or Not, We Have More Than We Need

(As each symbol is named, the reader stands holding the symbol, reads the quote and then takes the symbol to the ritual table)

We have:

- **The Living Word of God (Bible)**

Reader 1:

Jeremiah said, “Ah, Lord God. I know not how to speak; I am too young.” But God answered me: Say not I am too young. To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says our God.” (*Jeremiah 1: 6-8*)

- **You Are Sent**

Reader 2:

“Our mission is to proclaim the good news, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.” (*YAS, C#4*)

You Are Sent calls us through the power of the Spirit to transcend ourselves in order to radically follow Jesus Christ.

- **Call to Solidarity**

Reader 3:

“The Call to Solidarity is a new expression of the gospel call, a contemporary way of describing our evangelical call to mission.”
(General Council’s Working Vision)

- **Charism (Mirroring the Charism)**

- Reader 4:

- “The special grace from the Holy Spirit given to each of us that we may bear fruit for the church and the world at this time in history.”

- (Paraphrase from Mirroring the Charism)*

- **Community (Photo book)**

- Reader 5:

- “Our living together in faith, a prophetic sign of the church, is a service to God’s people...Christ is the center of our community and the source of our unity. The Spirit is our bond.” (YAS, C#8, 7)

- **Heritage and Deep Story (Heritage pictures/Trust and Dare)**

- Reader 6:

- “If the dear God wants to call something into life, God also always gives the means for that to happen.” (Mother Theresa)

- “God has helped wondrously until now; neither will God abandon us in the future.” (Mother Theresa)

What more could we ask or want than what we have already been given?

(Brief pause)

25 Min. Go? Where? When? How?

- ❖ What are the significant questions? When we name our question we will know the answer.
- ❖ We will know where, when, and how. We will know who we need to be and what we need to do.
- ❖ This path of naming the questions invites us to be prophetic in mission.
- ❖ We are called to be prophetic. We know the reality of our world and our church today; we have what we need; and now we consider the questions.

Reflection Question:

“What are the significant questions we need to ask ourselves, personally and communally, that will lead us to action -- to be radical followers of Jesus Christ?”

- **Personal reflection on the question.** *(5 minutes)*
- **Small group of six:** Share questions that have emerged during personal reflection with the group. *(10 minutes)*
- **Large group:** Each participant in every small group shares one question with the whole group. *(10 minutes)*

- ✧ We invite each participant to stand and read one question and to remain standing until everyone in his/her group has read a question.
- ✧ After everyone in the small group has shared, the whole group responds:
“*We have the answer within.*”
- ✧ While this response is being said, the readers place all of their questions in the basket and then return to their seats.
- ✧ Following this, the next group begins.
- ✧ As the questions are read, listen to the answers that are hidden within.
- ✧ Mindful of the attitudes with which we began – open mind, open heart, and open will – listen for the answer which is emerging in each question.

1 Min. Summary

- ✧ These are significant questions that hold the answers that we need in order to be prophetic.
- ✧ These are significant questions that will lead us to go deeper into the answers.
- ✧ These are significant questions that hold an understanding of that which weighs us down and causes us to be reluctant to embrace a radical following of Jesus.

These questions and responses we have placed in the blessing basket will be compiled into a reflection booklet and sent to you for further personal and communal reflection and conversations. (Note: This statement refers to what we, *Futuring SSND Charism Team*, produced when we collated the materials from the province day session into a booklet for further reflection and conversation. You may choose to collate your group’s input or do something different after you complete this process.)

This *Prophetic in Mission* process was created to facilitate a province day breakout session which would benefit all participants, regardless of their affiliation with School Sisters of Notre Dame. Under the umbrella of *Futuring SSND Charism, Associates For Mission, Sisters’ Transformation For Mission* and *Former Members For Mission* came together to delve into the experience of being *Prophetic in Mission*.

The *Prophetic in Mission* experience can be adapted into conversation, presentation, process and reflection time formats. These formats are available to local communities, extended faith communities, ministry groups, friends, gatherings of women, etc. We can provide copies of the process so you can facilitate a gathering or we can facilitate a gathering with you. **Contact one of us in the *Futuring SSND Charism* office** to receive process materials or to schedule facilitation with us:

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