

We need to preserve human faces and voices!



## Facilitators Resource And Session Guide



## **Purpose of the Reflection Gathering**

This resource invites families, schools, parishes, pastoral councils, communications teams and local faith communities to reflect prayerfully on Pope Leo XIV's Message for 60<sup>th</sup> World Day of Social Communications and Archbishop Eamon's message in response to Pope Leo XIV's teaching on artificial intelligence, communication and the dignity of the human person.

It is important to remember that this reflective resource is designed to help people slow down, listen to one another, and reflect on how our communication, online and offline, can become more truthful, more personal, more just and more Christ-centred.

## **Suggested Timing for the Session**

Allow 60 - 90 minutes, depending on the size of the group.

A suitably qualified facilitator, teacher or formator should guide the gathering gently, allowing enough silence for people to think before speaking.

## **Opening Prayer**

Loving God,  
you created each of us in your image and likeness.  
You gave us faces to be recognised,  
voices to be heard,  
hearts capable of truth,  
and lives called into communion.

In Jesus Christ, your Word became flesh.  
You did not speak to us from a distance,  
but came among us with a human face,  
a human voice,  
and a human heart.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us now.  
Teach us to communicate with honesty and tenderness.  
Help us to listen before we react,  
to seek truth before we share,  
to honour the dignity of every person,  
especially those whose faces are hidden  
and whose voices are ignored.

Guide our families, schools, parishes and communities  
in the wise use of technology.  
May every tool we use serve encounter,  
protect the vulnerable,  
build communion,  
and lead us more deeply towards Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Please remember to print out a copy of the opening and closing prayers for participants*

## **Reading Pope Leo XIV's Message for 60<sup>th</sup> World Day of Social communications and Archbishop Eamon's Pastoral reflection**

You may want to circulate the materials before the gathering so participants can familiarise themselves with them. If you are reading all the materials during your session, please allow enough session time for this activity.

The facilitator or teacher invites the group to read Pope Leo XIV's message for 60<sup>th</sup> World Day of Social communications/Archbishop Eamon's pastoral message.

Before reading, the facilitator may say:

*"As we listen, we are not looking for quick opinions or immediate answers. We are listening for what touches us, what unsettles us, what gives us hope, and what the Holy Spirit may be asking of us."*

Allow a short period of silence after the reading.

### **Three Rounds of Conversation**

#### **Round One: What struck you, resonated with you, or is staying with you?**

The facilitator invites each person, in turn, to share briefly their thoughts on both Pope Leo's message and on Archbishop Eamon's Reflection.

Suggested wording:

*Having read Pope Leo XIV's message and Archbishop Eamon's reflection, think about what struck you most?*

*What resonates with your own experience?*

*What phrase, image or challenge is staying with you?*

People may wish to speak about:

The Dignity Of The Human Face And Voice,  
The Danger Of Reducing People To Content, Data Or Labels,  
The Use Of Artificial Intelligence In Families, Schools, Parishes And Public Life,  
The Need For Truth And Discernment,  
The Faces Of Those Who Are Poor, Lonely, Forgotten Or Unseen,  
The Call To Communicate More Like Christ.

After everyone has spoken, allow a short silence for what has been said to settle in for each person.

#### **Round Two: What have you heard from another person that you would like to respond to?**

This round is not a debate. It is an invitation to listen more deeply.

The facilitator may say:

*In this second round, we are invited to respond to something someone else has said.*

*What did you hear that deepened your thinking, challenged you, encouraged you, or opened something up for you?*

Participants should speak from what they have heard, rather than returning only to their own first thought.

Some Helpful prompts:

- I was struck when you said...
- What I heard in your sharing was...
- That helped me think differently about...
- I found myself wondering about...
- I think there is a real challenge here for our parish, school or family in relation to...

Allow another short silence when the round is complete.

### **Round Three: What is God calling me, or us, to do going forward?**

The facilitator now invites the group to move from reflection to discernment.

Suggested wording:

*Having read Pope Leo XIV's message, Archbishop Eamon's reflection, and listened to one another, what do you sense God may be calling us to do?*

*Is there one concrete step we can take in our family, school, parish, ministry, or communications practice?*

This may include personal commitments, such as:

- To pause before sharing something online
- To check whether something is true before passing it on
- To speak more respectfully about those with whom we disagree
- To spend less time reacting and more time listening
- To protect children and young people from harmful digital habits
- To make more room for real conversation at home
- To pray before posting or responding online

It may also include parish or school commitments, such as:

- Reviewing how the parish communicates with people who are lonely, housebound or excluded
- Ensuring parish communication is hospitable rather than merely administrative
- Helping young people think critically about artificial intelligence and social media
- Offering a session on digital discernment for parents, teachers or parish volunteers
- Making sure the faces and voices of the vulnerable are not absent from parish life
- Using digital media to invite people towards prayer, community and encounter

### **Gathering the Fruits**

The facilitator may invite one person to note the main themes that have emerged in their group.

A simple way to gather the fruits is to ask:

*What are the three words or phrases we would like to carry from this conversation?*

Then ask:

*Is there one action we can realistically take in the next month?*

The action should be small, clear and possible.

For example:

We will include a short reflection on truthful communication in the parish bulletin.

We will hold a conversation with parents about children, AI and digital media.

We will review our parish social media so that it better reflects welcome, faith and human dignity.

We will invite young people to help us think about how technology can serve encounter rather than replace it.

## Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you are the Word made flesh,  
the face of the Father's mercy,  
and the voice that calls each person by name.

Help us to communicate as your disciples.  
Where there is noise, teach us to listen.  
Where there is falsehood, give us courage to seek truth.  
Where there is anger, form in us patience and mercy.  
Where people are hidden, forgotten or mocked,  
open our eyes to see your face in them.

Bless our families, schools, parishes and communities.  
May our words build up rather than wound.  
May our use of technology serve communion rather than isolation.  
May our digital spaces become places of truth, dignity and hope.

Teach us to preserve human faces and voices,  
so that in all our communication  
we may honour the person before us  
and witness to the Gospel with humility and love.

Amen.

