

Session 6:

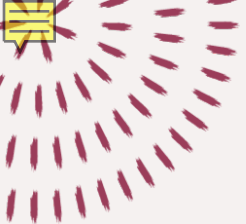
Building Bridges



Walking the Path of
Synodality
in the Footsteps of
Pope Francis



A Six-Session Synodal Leadership Formation Course



Overview of Session

- Welcome & Overview
- Revisit Previous Session
- Scripture Reflection
- Presentation: Culture
- Exercise: A Graced Conversation
- Final Session Conclusion



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



Learning Objectives

Celebrate	Celebrate the rich contributions of our different perspectives
Understand	Understand the implications of diversity and cultural differences
Realize	Realize how much cultural backgrounds influence perspectives
Assess	Assess their cultural awareness and assumptions
Look	Look for opportunities to build relationships across cultural frontiers in their pastoral leadership
Be	Be able to use a tool for cultural sensitivity



Revisit: Adaptive Leadership

1. Get on the balcony, Distinguish Subject from Object
2. Think politically
3. Orchestrate the conflict
4. Discipline attention to the real issues
5. Give the work back
6. Regulate disequilibrium
7. Infuse the work with meaning





**Small Group
Conversation:**
Crossing cultural
barriers

How did you feel before, during, and after the experience?

What graces did you experience?

What challenges did you experience?



Concluding Commitments

What commitment do you want to make to practice adaptive leadership for the next two weeks?



**Adaptive
Leadership**



Scripture Reflection



What are the cultural barriers that Jesus is crossing in this encounter?



1. When Jesus tested her faith, how did the Syrophoenician woman react?
2. What does this passage teach about Jesus' mission?
3. What does this teach us about how the Church is intended to be?





Culture

Presentation



Cultures have ideas and ways of expressing them.

Cultures have beliefs about God, themselves, and others. Cultures carry values that shape their ways of living and interacting with others. Cultures have a language that conveys their ideas, feelings, and ways of living.





Cultures have behaviors.

Cultures have rules about what is proper and improper behavior. Roles—for example, within the family—have distinctive features. Cultures have ways of celebrating and extending hospitality





Cultures have material dimensions.

Cultures have material, outward signs that express and reflect their ideas and beliefs. Cultures have special foods (what is eaten every day and on special occasions).

Among other things, cultures also have unique modes of dressing and furnishing their homes.





Cultural Humility



Key attributes of cultural humility

openness

self-reflection and awareness

lifelong learning

institutional accountability


empathy and compassion

to be “other-oriented”

acknowledging power imbalances and balancing power imbalances




Intercultural Competence

- 
- Knowledge of more than one perspective on things
 - Knowledge of different interpretations of the same cultural reality
 - Knowledge of general dynamics of intercultural communication
 - Knowledge of more than one's first language




Intercultural Competence

- 
- Ability to empathize
 - Ability to tolerate ambiguity
 - Ability to adapt communication and behavior



**Intercultural
Competence**

- 
- Openness to others and other cultures
 - Wanting to learn and engage different cultures
 - Understanding intercultural interaction as a way of life, not a problem to be solved
 - Mindfulness



Intercultural Competence



Consider someone with a different perspective

What can I learn from this person? As a child of God, he or she is my sister or brother, not a challenge to overcome but rather a collaborator in the search for common ground.

What am I hoping for in this dialogue? What questions can I ask that will help me understand their beliefs, customs, values, and perspectives better?

What can I bring to the conversation? How might my values help me be open to finding common ground and commitments?



Culture

Concluding Commitments

What is one way you can practice cultural humility in your life situation?

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Concluding Commitments

Thinking about what's next in your synodal journey, is there a specific topic you want to pursue further?

- Deep Listening
- Spiritual Conversations
- Overcoming Biases
- Inclusive Decision-making Adaptive Leadership Intercultural Bridges



1. What will I do differently as a result of the experience of synodal leadership?
2. Are there any policies, procedures, or structures that could change to accommodate greater synodality?
3. How can I communicate synodal leadership methods to the people I work with?
4. What results do I expect to occur from increased synodality in my life or ministry?



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