



Missionary Discernment Worksheet

The young

Facilitator: Secretary for Mission and Evangelisation of the Conference and his counterparts in the Entities (Provinces/Custodies).

This worksheet is offered as a working tool to facilitate a listening process aimed at engaging in missionary discernment that will help enrich the preparatory journey towards the General Chapter of 2027. The worksheet proposes holding one or more working sessions involving Vocational Animators and the Secretariats responsible for pastoral work with young people in the individual Entities.

Those involved in the work should receive the worksheet before the meeting, together with the Letter of Introduction to the process, so that they may prepare themselves through personal reflection and discernment. The facilitator should establish the timetable before the group gathers to engage in communal discernment.

The worksheet proposes three stages of work, in keeping with the distinct phases of discernment. The first stage involves sharing an interpretation of the signs of the times and places, *recognising* in them the initial elements useful for discernment. The second stage involves *interpreting* what emerges in the light of the charism, by developing criteria for discernment. The third stage calls for a *practical synthesis* of what has been shared in the first two stages, highlighting the issues to be addressed and the guidelines to be proposed to the General Chapter.

Each phase proposes a number of questions to stimulate personal reflection and to identify the elements perceived as important to bring to the discernment process. It then suggests engaging in a dialogue leading to a synthesis; it is recommended that this synthesis be arrived at by taking into account what recurs with the greatest frequency and convergence, whilst also considering those prophetic intuitions recognised as valid and bearing evangelical and charismatic potential.

HOW SHALL WE PROCEED?

1. The summary of the work carried out in each Entity (Province/Custody) should be prepared in writing and sent to the facilitator of the Conference by 10 October 2026.
2. The facilitator of the Conference will organise a meeting with his counterparts to discuss the experience of the work carried out in each Entity. As a result of this meeting, which may take place either in person or online, a process of gathering information and preparing a synthesis will be undertaken according to the indications provided by those responsible for the methodology. The deadline for these meetings is 1 November 2026.
3. The facilitator of the Conference will transmit the results of this worksheet to the President and Secretary of the Conference, providing a unified style and preparing a synthesis according to the outline established by the methodological team. This synthesis will be sent to the Preparatory Commission of the Instrumentum Laboris by 29 November 2026.

OPENING PHASE – RECOGNISING



In the light of the signs of the times and places

- ▶ What challenges are emerging in the formation and accompaniment of young people? What anthropological and socio-cultural changes must we take into account?
- ▶ What difficulties and struggles are emerging among young people on their journey? What struggles are there among those who accompany them?
- ▶ What signs of renewal and fruits can we discern in the processes underway? What do we see working, being more fruitful?
- ▶ What challenges do young people raise that might prompt us to rethink the structures and forms of our apostolate and prayer life?

In light of these questions, initiate a discussion and report back with a maximum of 5 key considerations. What you feel is most important, necessary, useful, and profound.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

EXPLORATION PHASE – INTERPRETING



In the light of the charism:

Taking into account what emerged during the Recognising phase, try to answer the following questions :

- ▶ Are we projecting an image of religious life that is still attractive and credible?
- ▶ What concrete steps for young people: accompaniment, listening, shared responsibility?
- ▶ How can we accompany young people to live in a technological and pluralistic world whilst respecting fraternity, minority and missionary spirit?

In the light of these questions, initiate a discussion and report back with a maximum of 5 key considerations. What you feel is most important, necessary, useful and profound.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

SYNTHESIS PHASE – CHOOSING



Towards God's future:

We are now called to draw up guidelines for the future, having the courage to inspire choices and raise questions so that the capitulars are enabled to deepen the debate.

► **Open questions:**

What topics do you think should be discussed at the chapter? How would you formulate useful questions for the capitulars?

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► **Guidelines for the Order:**

What suggestions would you bring to the attention of the General Chapter regarding 'following Christ and proclaiming the Gospel today towards God's future' in relation to the world of young people as friars on mission?

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