

**DIALOGUE FOR BUILDING
COMMUNION IN THE
MISSION**

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APPROACH TO THE THEME

- The context of our reflection on dialogue is interculturality or intercultural living. Therefore, we approach dialogue as one of the instruments that could help us to improve on our intercultural living and thus, building communion in the mission.

INTERCULTURALITY IMPLIES DIALOGUE

- The prefix **inter-**, in inter-culturality expresses the idea of exchange, interaction, openness, communication between different cultures, reciprocity and objective solidarity.
- Therefore inter-culturality calls for dialogue, interaction between persons who are custodians of cultures.

Definition and goal of dialogue

- Dialogue is a reciprocal communication, leading to:
 - A common goal
 - Interpersonal communion

- It is any form of mutual communication, in which both sides listen and talk, give and take, learn and share.

- Such dialogue can take place:

 - in everyday encounters

 - when celebrating together

 - within academia as well as at celebrations

 - in a relaxed atmosphere

 - in the middle of conflicts

LANGUAGE AS THE DRIVE DIALOGUE

- Dialogue is realized through language. It is either spoken or silent.
- It demands:

Listening the word spoken

Responding to the word spoken

CHALLENGES TO DIALOGUE

- Dialogue for building communion can be hampered by:
 - **Ethnocentrism:** seeing reality or the world from only ones own perspective. Using ones cultural values as a yardstick for measuring other cultures. Leading to closeness.
 - **Self-sufficiency:** I know all attitude, thus in capacity to learn from others.

CHALLENGES TO DIALOGUE

- **Superiority complex:** despising others and what they offer in the process of dialogue.
- **Inferiority complex:** this is revealed through attitudes of self-defense, aggressive behaviours and cultural rigidity.
- **Prejudices:** unjustifiable negative attitude one holds against others.

Overcoming the challenges to Dialogue

Ethnorelativism refers to relativity of cultural values. Here what is acceptable is not judged basing on one's own culture, but made on the criteria of transcend cultural values. It refers to the empirical observation that cultures differ. It therefore helps people:

- **To appreciate different ways of thinking**
- **To appreciate different ways of seeing reality**
- **To appreciate different ways of acting**

Constitutive dispositions of Dialogue

- There are basic dispositions and attitudes which need to be present if dialogue is to achieve its objective of building co-existence and communion in the mission. These basic dispositions may include:

Acceptance of Otherness

Confirmation of Otherness

Reciprocity and mutuality

Constitutive dispositions of Dialogue

Truthfulness

Openness

Presence

Availability

❖ **Solidarity**: it is that participative attitude which renders the person constantly ready to accept and realize his share in the dialogical process in the community.

❖ **Opposition**: it is an attitude of participation in the dialogical process. It plays an important role in the process of discernment in the dialogical community. It is a process that leads to better understanding of the common good. It does not mean cutting oneself off from the community but is a sign of a greater participation.

• **LET'S
DIALOGUE!**

THANK YOU!