



# AUSCP Women and Priests: Understanding and Honoring the Experience of LGBTQ+ Catholics Conversation in the Spirit Facilitator Script February 5, 2025 3:00 - 4:30pm ET

**Facilitators: Arrive 30 minutes before call begins (2:30pm ET)**

**Duration: 82 minutes**

## **Schedule:**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer	5 mins
2. Speakers	30 minutes
2. Introduction to Conversation in the Spirit	2 mins
3. Reading and Affirming Ground Rules	2 mins
4. Examen (Guided Meditation)	5 mins.
5. Conversations in small groups	35 mins
6. Naming the Graces	2 mins
7. Closing Prayer	2 mins.

*The Conversation process will begin after the speakers have completed their remarks. This script begins at this point.*

**Introduction to Conversation in the Spirit** *A brief overview of the Conversation in the Spirit model will be offered. This overview will provide information on the Conversation structure and the timing of each round.*

Today's conversation is an invitation to listen deeply to one another and to the Spirit to discern how God is calling us, as clergy and laity, as men and women, to journey more closely together and live the Gospel more

fully and authentically as individual disciples and the Body of Christ. Conversation in the Spirit is an invitation to be present to the Holy Spirit among us and within each of us.

Before arriving, you received information regarding the Conversation in the Spirit format and the main question and reflection materials to help you prepare. The conversation begins with naming the fruits of your prayer and reflection on these questions. Everyone will have an opportunity to speak and respond to one another. Still, even more importantly, all are invited to listen deeply, with the ear of your heart, to one another with compassion and attention, for this is how God relates to each of us.

We will begin with a reading of the Ground Rules for conversation. All are asked to affirm and abide by these ground rules. We will then re-present the questions for first round of conversation. This will be followed by a guided meditation to enter prayerfully and reflectively into the conversation. At the end of the Examen prayer, you will be invited into a breakout room with others. A facilitator will join you to explain the conversation process in more detail and guide you along the way. Your facilitator will also take notes and will submit a report on the key ideas and themes that emerge. These reports will be shared with church leaders both in the US and in the Vatican. These next steps will be explained in more detail by Sarah when you return from your small group.

I pray that you have a graced-filled encounter with one another and the Spirit who is with us, longing to speak to our hearts.

**Ground Rules:** *The main facilitator reads the rules in a large assembly. All are asked to give affirmation. In an individual conversation, the facilitator reads the ground rules, and all are asked to affirm them. See Ground Rules document and slide.*

**Introduction of Question(s):** *The large group leader reviews the primary questions. **This question should be familiar to all participants.** Participants received the questions a week before the event. This is only a review and focusing of the question.*

1. How have you experienced our Church regarding listening to the lived experiences of our LGBTQ+ Catholic siblings, parents, family, priests, and allies?

-If you have not experienced this in our Church, how can we rise to the call to be a listening Church?

2. How have you experienced our Church journeying together with our LGBTQ+ Catholic siblings, parents, family, priests, and allies?

**Examen:** *After introducing the question, a delegated leader reads the Examen reflection slowly and meditatively. All are invited to close their eyes if they wish. The Examen is a mediative reflection to prepare for the consultation.*

*(All move to break out rooms after the Examen)*

### **Small Group Facilitator:**

Welcome to our conversation. Thank you for joining. During the next 35 minutes, everyone will have an opportunity to share their reflections on the questions and to listen deeply to one another.

For the first round, you will each have **3 minutes** to respond freely and without interruption. Once everyone has spoken, we will share a **minute of silent reflection**. We will then have a second round. This will be an opportunity to name anything that resonated with you as you listened. You will have **2 minutes** for this round. We will then share another **minute of silent reflection**. In the final round, all will have an opportunity to name what you feel the Holy Spirit might be saying to us through this conversation. We will conclude by working together to reflect on our conversation and provide our report.

Let's begin by introducing ourselves. Please tell us your name and where you are from, and then we will get right to it.

Our first task is to organize ourselves *alphabetically by first name*. This will be the order of our sharings. *(determine order together)*

We will now begin with our first round of conversation. Again, you will have up to **3 minutes** to respond. **I will indicate when you have 30 seconds left**. Please take a few notes while others speak if this will help you to reflect more deeply.

Please take a few moments to collect your thoughts. *(Silence for 20 seconds)*

### **1<sup>st</sup> round of sharing:**

Now, we will begin our first round of sharing on this question. Anyone can start, but then we will continue in order. *(Provide a list of the order and post this list in the chat so all can see it clearly)*

*(The facilitator keeps time and calls out 30 seconds. Affirming each speaker when they are finished and thanking them for their offering)*

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*(After all have spoken)* Let us take one **1 minute** of silence now. Consider all that has been shared. What resonated most with you? What was particularly powerful? What struck you? What inspired you?

*(One minute of silence)*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> round of sharing**

We now begin our second round of sharing. Anyone can start, and then we will follow the order of our introductions again. You will have up to **2 minutes** each. I will let you know when you have 30 seconds left.

The question for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round is:

What resonated most for you as you listened? What was most powerful?  
What moved you?

*(All respond)*

Let us pause for a minute to reflect on what you have heard in this round, where the Spirit has been present and prompting us and the Church to grow and respond. *(One minute of silence)*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> round of sharing:**

We will now begin our final round of sharing. You have one minute for this final sharing. I invite you to share the fruit of this time of silence.

How is the Spirit prompting us to grow, act, and respond?

Again, anyone can begin, and then we will continue in order.

*(All respond - 1 minute)*

## **Final Thanks and Considering Graces:**

Thank you all for being part of this conversation. Thank you for all you have shared, for your deep listening and for working together to discern the will of the Spirit among us. We will soon return to the large group, where you will have an opportunity to name the graces that you have experienced

here. In the time remaining, I would invite you to review our conversation in your mind and heart and consider the graces of this time together.

*End of Conversation. Return to the main room at this point.*

## **Reporting**

As a facilitator, you are asked to submit a final report on behalf of the group. To do this, use the link below. First, consider any notes you have taken and your recollection of the conversation, especially Round Three, and write in the form the Convergences that emerged, the Divergences that occurred and the Recommendations/Actions named by the group.

**You have 24 hours after the conversation to submit the form.**

Here is the Reporting Form: <https://forms.gle/Ah1mQi7VADmh34rm9>

**Naming of the Graces** (*read by Leader after all have returned from break out groups*)

During our conversations, we have shared rich experiences of faith. We have discussed how we are journeying as disciples and as a community of faith and how we might do so more faithfully as we go forth from this sacred space. In thanksgiving for the gift of these conversation and your conversation partners, I invite you to type into the chat a specific grace, a word or phrase, that you received or an insight you gained from this experience.