

“One of the requests that emerged most strongly and from all contexts during the synodal process is that the formation provided by the Christian community be integral, ongoing, and shared. Such formation must aim not only at acquiring theoretical knowledge but also at promoting the capacity for openness and encounter, sharing and collaboration, reflection and discernment in common. Formation must consequently engage all the dimensions of the human person (intellectual, affective, relational, and spiritual) and include concrete experiences that are appropriately accompanied.” (FD 143)

Reflection for the formation of the baptized—ongoing catechesis and moral instruction for those integrated into Christ through Baptism—is directly commanded in Sacred Scripture, most prominently in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. At this juncture, Jesus provides a mission to the Apostles with two important instructions: to baptize all nations and to teach them to observe everything He has commanded, ensuring that Baptism leads to a lived discipleship under the permanent presence of the Saviour in the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus ends with the reassurance of his enduring love for us.

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Guiding Question:

How do we hear God calling us to provide spaces for continued growth, formation in the faith and the discernment of the gifts of each person?

Questions for Personal Reflection:

- What gifts of the spirit am I currently aware of in my life?
- How have I continued to grow in my understanding of God-given gifts?
- What am I curious or excited to learn about my faith?