



Session 1: Communion

05/04/2025

Consolidated response from Listening & Discernment Session

During the first Pillar session of the Catholic Youth Assembly, groups reflected on communion through a process of listening and synodal discernment. Key themes emerged around evangelisation, unity, leadership, personal witness, and the role of the Eucharist in fostering authentic Christian community.

A deep longing for unity within the Church was repeatedly expressed. Participants highlighted the need to bridge differences between Catholic groups, recognising diverse expressions of the faith while upholding the truth in love. The vision was one of “one flock, one shepherd,” with a desire to move away from divisions, privilege, and VIP mentalities, embracing humility, dialogue, and shared mission.

The Eucharist was acknowledged as the source and summit of Christian life. Groups emphasised the importance of making it central, supported by prayer, silence, scripture study, and spiritual reflection. Faith formation was noted as crucial, particularly through leaders and catechists who can guide and equip young people. At the same time, concerns were raised about bad catechesis, overly bureaucratic structures, and a lack of vision in some parish leaders.

Evangelisation was a strong recurring theme. Participants discussed the balance between active outreach and allowing Christ to work through them. There was a clear call to revitalise Catholics who have fallen away, meet people where they are, and approach others with honesty and love in daily life. The Church was urged to focus more on outreach through camps, volunteering, youth-friendly events, and engaging music that unites.

Youth ministry was seen as needing rejuvenation. Many shared personal experiences of loneliness and observed that parish life often lacks structures that prioritise young people. Participants noted that full-time study and work make communion difficult

without proper support. Involving families, particularly parents, and providing meaningful graduation or sacramental follow-up were mentioned as practical strategies.

Personal witness was also key. Groups spoke about being honest with oneself, acting with love, and striving to imitate Christ. The cross was named as the axis of the world, inviting self-sacrifice for the sake of others. There was a desire to be shepherds who stay through trials, rather than hired hands who flee when challenges arise.

Finally, the tone was one of hope and courage. The Church, though facing difficulties, is still called to be a place of communion, truth, and love. Participants affirmed that through humility, prayer, and shared vision, the Church can unite and reach out to others with the transformative love of Christ.