

Formation in Liturgical Prayer

Convener: Rodica M. M. Stoiciu (rodicastoiciuphd@gmail.com) is currently an independent academic working with the VLCFF at the University of Dayton, and has taught at Mount St. Mary's University and The Washington Theological Union.

Members in Attendance: Stan Campbell, Bernadette Gasslein, Paul Janowiak, Anne McGuire, Roc O'Connor, Michael Pendergast, Rodica Stoiciu, Kyle Turner

Visitors: Julie Bellefe, Bryon Hanson, Sean Thomas

Description of Work: The seminar discussed the text *Eucharistic Church, Eucharistic Formation*, eds. Owen F. Cummings and Mark Nussberger, sections from the General Synthesis document *A Synodal Church in Mission, Synthesis Report* and distributed for further reading "Mystagogy of the Unauthorized" in *Liturgy* by David Farina Turnbloom. This conversation began with a conversation of liturgical formation and the local Church in terms of the current tension between what is perceived as more "traditional" liturgy and the liturgy of Vatican II. What role does poor formation play in this turn away from the Conciliar liturgy? Is it a need for certainty or a reaction to poor Vatican II liturgy and a mistaken conflation of unity and uniformity? In subsequent sessions we focused more directly on the nature of mystagogy, its capacity to open one to mystery and its pneumatological, ecclesiological and relational elements within the liturgical dynamic, always within the context of a celebrating community. The final two discussions examined the role of mystagogy as an essential element in the implementation of the General Synod as viewed from the perspective of the General Synthesis document. The seminar focused on three specific sections of the document as examples were mystagogy would be a critical component in the formation of a listening Church grounded in the common dignity of the baptized and shaped by the celebration of the Eucharist.

Other Work and Plans for the Future: The seminar proposes that we offer one session in the next series on the General Synthesis section 3 "Entering the Community of Faith: Christian Initiation," on the topic of the Eucharist and liturgy. We propose that members of our seminar group participate as moderator/facilitator and presenters. It was also proposed that seminar members explore modelling the listening Church in their local settings and engage the ideas discussed at this year's meeting.