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BM

MANDARIN

TAMIL

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INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

DISCERNMENT

(From Listening to Action)

Return to the larger group

Each small group is invited to share briefly their "We" perspective briefly, focusing on what and how they sense the Holy Spirit is inviting them to respond.

Together as a BEC, identify a simple 'Move to Action' to help the Word take root in daily life. For example:

For example:

- **As individuals** – to look out for moments of accompaniment that can be shared with our family members.
- **As families** – to choose one fixed time each week for shared prayer, Scripture reading, or a meal together without phones or other distractions.

Intercessory Prayer

Facilitator invites all to voice short intentions, for example:

"Lord, give the grace of accompaniment, especially with my family."

Response: *"Lord, hear our prayer."*

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer, the Glory Be, and the Sign of Peace.

Closing Hymn:

An appropriate hymn may be sung or played



BECReflection

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE: FAMILY: ACCOMPANIMENT

Pope Francis once said, "The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity...". Simply put, this is 'Accompaniment'.

"The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this 'Art of Accompaniment' which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5)." (*Evangelii Gaudium* 169)

In other words, we are invited to move beyond our comfort zones and journey with others, honouring the uniqueness, complexity, and sacredness of every person's path. Through this, we are transformed together, drawing closer to Christ and experiencing a deeper conversion of heart.

Where else is this more intimately possible than within the family, the domestic Church, where accompaniment in faith, love, and mercy is lived daily?



ENCOUNTERING

Opening Hymn

Suggestion:

We are One in the Spirit
or another familiar hymn.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach us to walk with one another in love. Help us step beyond what is easy and care for each person with patience and respect. In our families, make our homes places of prayer, kindness, and forgiveness. May we listen, support, and pray together each day, so our homes become places of healing, where Your presence is felt and hope is shared with the world. Amen.



Pastoral Pathway

While the word 'accompaniment' may have become a catchphrase thrown around, both in and outside of church circles, it is, in truth, deeply rooted in family life. The family is where accompaniment is first learned and lived. It begins at home and unfolds across a lifetime.

Accompaniment is shaped by shared moments, in both good times and bad, when a family can come together in support of one another. In these moments, love, forgiveness, and even sacrifice must take the lead.

Rather than relying solely on doctrines and discipline, we are called to approach one another with patience and understanding. This does not mean setting aside our teachings or principles, but choosing instead to walk with the other – offering a listening ear, a comforting presence, and, very importantly, a praying partner.

A family rooted in prayer and support like this will not only be a domestic church where God dwells; it also becomes a field hospital, one that the world turns to as a beacon of hope.

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:12-13

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Pause for three minutes of prayerful silence to reflect on this scripture text in light of family relationships today.

DIALOGUING

(Conversation in the Spirit)

Form small groups of 4 to 6 persons. Follow the three rounds of sharing. Keep one minute of silence between each sharing.

Round 1 – "I" Perspective *(Come prepared for a time of silence. All are invited to share, but only once for less than 2 minutes. No commenting on the sharing of others.)*

Considering our discussions on accompaniment and the scripture reading, what steps can I take to foster accompaniment in my family?

(Thank each person after their sharing and observe a minute of silence before the next person continues)

Round 2 – "You and I" Perspective

(Now participants are invited to respond to the sharing of another. Each person shares once, responding to something they heard another member share.)

What do I find in common after hearing from others?
(state 1 or 2 points)

(Thank each person after their sharing and observe 1 minute of silence before the next person continues)

Round 3 – "We" Perspective *(Now the facilitator or leader invites all to come to a common consensus or agreement on what was shared.)*

What is the Holy Spirit saying to us about how we can practice accompaniment better in our families?

(Thank each person after their sharing and observe 1 minute of silence before the next person continues)