



Pope Francis's Vision of the Church **Discussion Prompts**

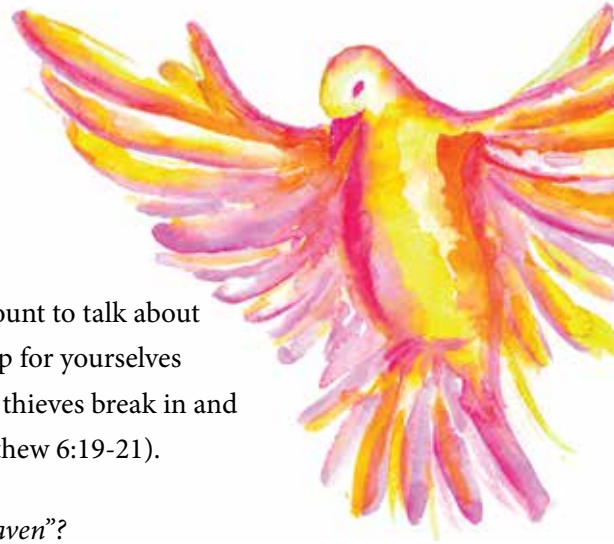
- 1.** In *Evangelii gaudium* Pope Francis “laments that the majority of people accept, as usual, economic and social conditions that ought to evoke shock and outrage.”
 - a. *What local and global situations can you think of that should evoke shock and outrage in us?*

 - b. *Why do you think people have begun to accept these situations as usual?*

 - c. *What can we do to transform peoples' awareness of these situations? How can we transform our own awareness?*

- 2.** The author of the article, Dennis Doyle, mentions liberation theology and names some specific liberation theologians.
 - a. *Select one of the three theologians he mentions and find a quote from that person that inspires you. Be ready to share your selected quote with the class.*

 - b. *Pope Francis shares some of the urgency and outrage of the liberation theologians. How do you see this in his words and actions?*



- 3.** Pope Francis alludes to a passage from the Sermon on the Mount to talk about synthesis in terms of personal incorporation: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” (Matthew 6:19-21).

 - a. What do you think Jesus is referring to as “treasures in heaven”?*
 - b. Where do you place your deepest values? What gains do you focus your energies and actions upon?*

- 4.** The second layer of meaning of synthesis talks about the authentic expression of faith. How might Christians best communicate their faith, “not with cold formulas but genuinely and earnestly”?

- 5.** In the third layer of meaning of *synthesis*, Doyle refers to the Vatican II document, *Gaudium et spes* and calls for us to become “artisans of a new humanity.” Imagine and brainstorm together what this new humanity might look like and act like. What kind of faith expression would be valuable? How would this new humanity combine traditional and modern paths?

Personal reflection: Considering your own beliefs and unique faith journey, what one idea from this article would you like to consider more?

