

# WORKING WITH OTHERS - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

### Grace: that we become grateful for the call to collaborate with others

“Bit by bit as we grow in the spiritual life, we understand better that grace reaches us together with others and that it is meant to be shared with others.”

Pope Francis

The continued narrative of the Society has provided, over the centuries, the ground for numerous experiences of unity-in-multiplicity. We Jesuits are frequently surprised that, despite our differences in culture and context, we find ourselves remarkably united. Through prayerful discernment, open discussion, and spiritual conversations, we have again and again been privileged to know ourselves as one in the Lord: one united, apostolic body seeking what is best for the service of God in the Church and for the world. This graced experience reminds us of the experience recounted in the Deliberation of the First Fathers. Our earliest companions, even though they considered themselves weak and fragile and originating from many different places, found the will of God together amid great diversity of opinion. What enabled them to find God's will was their “decided care and alertness to initiate a completely open way” and to offer themselves fully to it for the greater glory of God. Thus they began a narrative; they lit a fire, which was handed on in subsequent generations whenever people encountered the Society, enabling the personal histories of generations to become embedded in the Society's history as a whole. This collective history formed the basis of their unity; and at its heart was Jesus Christ.

### A fire that kindles other fires - GC35 Decree 2 [2]

What this vocation implies is illustrated by the example of the disciples chosen and prepared by Christ to become His witnesses: “leaving everything behind, they followed Him.” Moreover when we contemplate the group of apostles living with Christ, and the Jerusalem community animated by the Spirit given by Christ at Pentecost, we notice the power of charity which united all those who wished to be brothers in Christ as well as witnesses to Him. By that same dynamism of charity they were moved to possess and share everything in common, so that all should be one: “Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common.”

### On Poverty, Work, and Common Life - Pedro Arrupe (1968)

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How am I responding to the call to collaborate with others and allow something greater to emerge?