

We communicate for God is communication

God calls us and asks us to communicate God's message to others.

Journeying towards the Meeting, we want to prayerfully deepen into the spirituality of communication, from what God communicates to us in Jesus through the power of his Spirit.



Why do we communicate?

As human beings we communicate in all we are and do, thus our communication must be a meaningful intentional activity.

We will explore communication and its spirituality from the perspective of Consecrated Life.



Why do we communicate?

We communicate:

- because God is communication
- because Jesus communicated
- because Jesus sends us to communicate
- our own story
- because Jesus makes us communicate
- With the language of life
- Resurrection
- what God communicated to us
- because the Spirit empowers us.



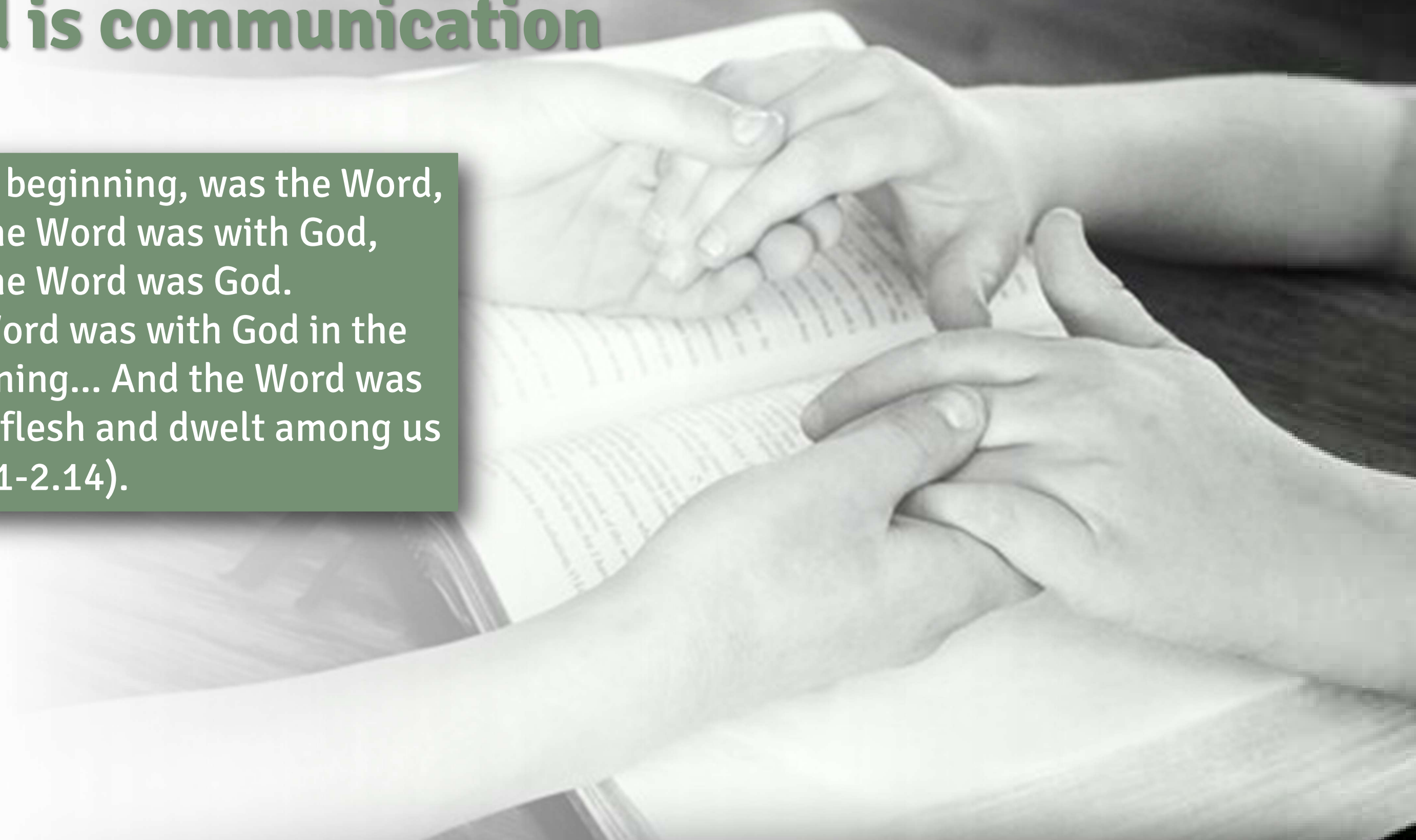
Why do we communicate?

Why do you communicate?



God is communication

In the beginning, was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The Word was with God in the
beginning... And the Word was
made flesh and dwelt among us
(Jn 1,1-2.14).



God is communication

God is Word, is a relationship, is communion expressing itself, seeking to communicate in order to create communion, to create meaning and to offer it to the world and to each person.

God's Word reveals his interiority, reveals his very being of God, and reveals who God is.



God is communication

Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, is above all the communication of the One and Triune God.

God communicates in Jesus.
God communicates in human history through words, silences and gestures.

God is communication:
wanting to be revealed.



God is communication



*Who is the source of your
communication?*

*Do you let God be part of your
communication?*

Jesus communicated...

Jesus said.

Jesus touched...

Jesus listened...

Jesus remained silent...

Jesus embraced...

Jesus was...

Jesus felt...

Jesus wept...

Jesus blessed...

Jesus cried ...

Jesus carried the cross...

Jesus died...

Jesus rose from the dead...

Jesus appeared...

Jesus breathed...



Jesus communicated...

It is fascinating to analyse Jesus' communication in the Gospels.

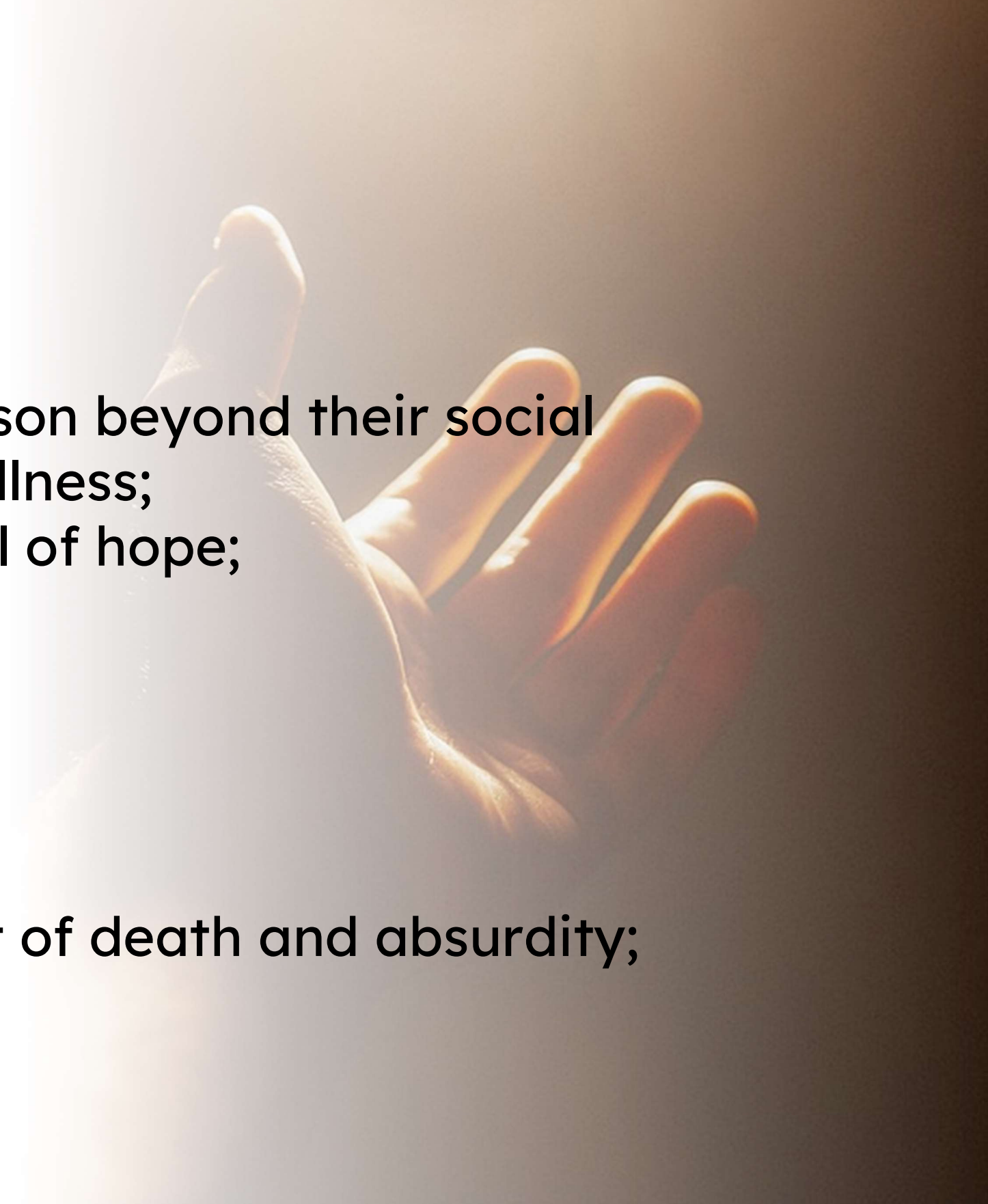
His steps through the lands of Galilee, Samaria and Judea, walking even in foreign lands, reveal to us that in his encounter with many, his great desire was to communicate.



Jesus communicated...

He wanted to communicate:

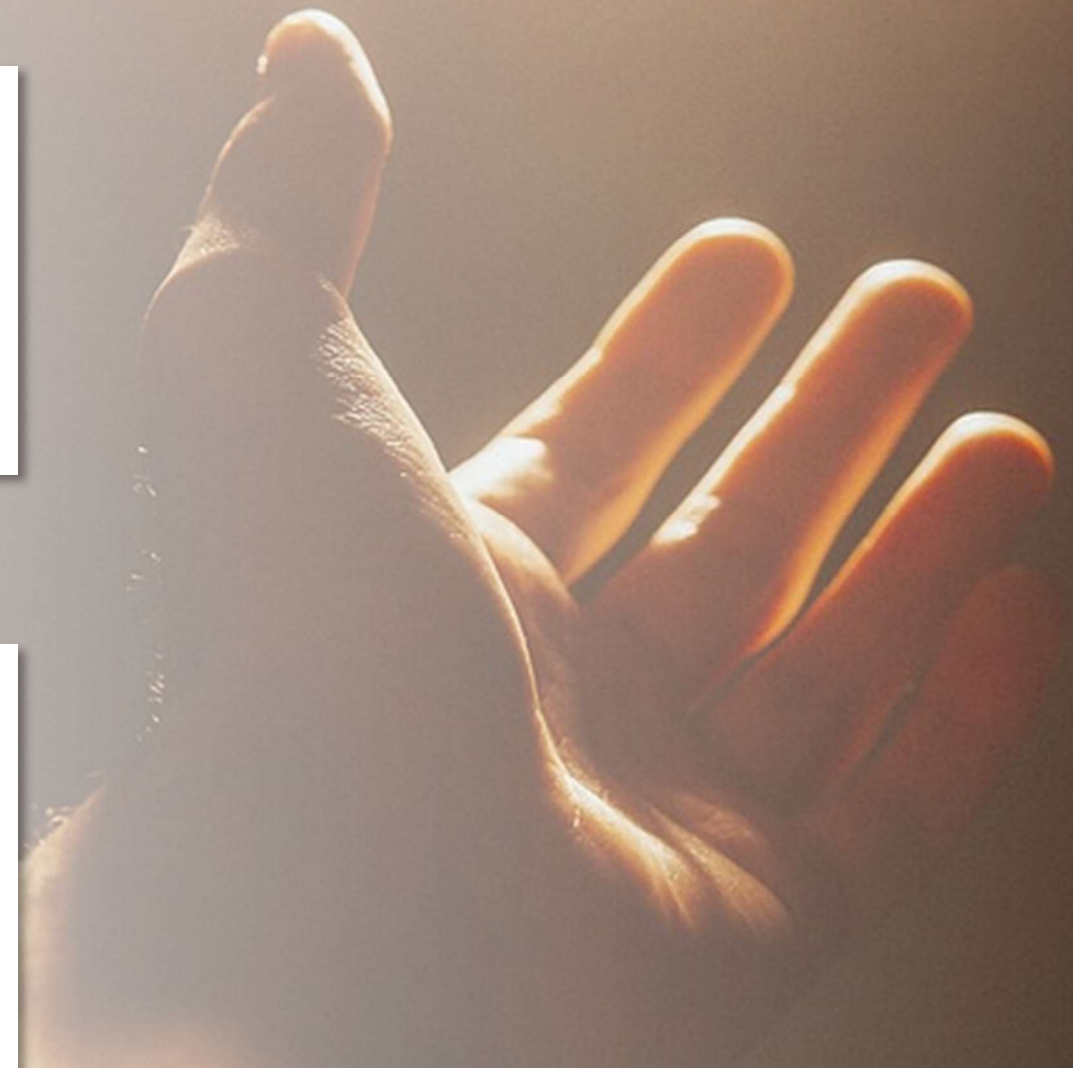
- a transformative experience;
- the unquestionable value of each person beyond their social or religious condition, their health or illness;
- the possibility of a different future full of hope;
- forgiveness and reconciliation;
- God's merciful justice;
- the Kingdom and the Father's will;
- what inhabited his heart;
- his compassion towards pain;
- abundance and meaning, in the midst of death and absurdity;
- the Spirit and the Resurrection;
- God's love in communion...



Jesus communicated...

Reflecting on passages from Jesus' life, ask him to understand what he wants to communicate to you.

For we speak to God when we pray,
and we hear God when we read the
words of the Sacred Scripture
(See Dei Verbum 25).



Jesus sends us to communicate

And the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and sent them ahead of him, two by two, to all the towns and places where he was about to go (Lk 10:1).

Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor (Lk 7:22).



Jesus sends us to communicate

Jesus said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to all creation" (Mk 16:15).

You are witnesses of this (Lk 24:48).



Jesus sends us to communicate

Communication is an integral part of the Christian life. Following Jesus means communicating him.

To all those who encounter him, Jesus entrusts the mission of being witnesses of the personal experience of his love.



Jesus sends us to communicate

*Do you communicate
what you have seen and
heard in your
relationship with Jesus?*

*Do you communicate
what you have seen and
heard in the world
through the eyes of
Jesus?*



We communicate our own story

The man from whom the devils had gone out asked to be allowed to stay with him, but he sent him away saying, 'Go back home and report all that God has done for you.'

So the man went off and proclaimed throughout the city all that Jesus had done for him (Lk 8:38-39).



We communicate our own story

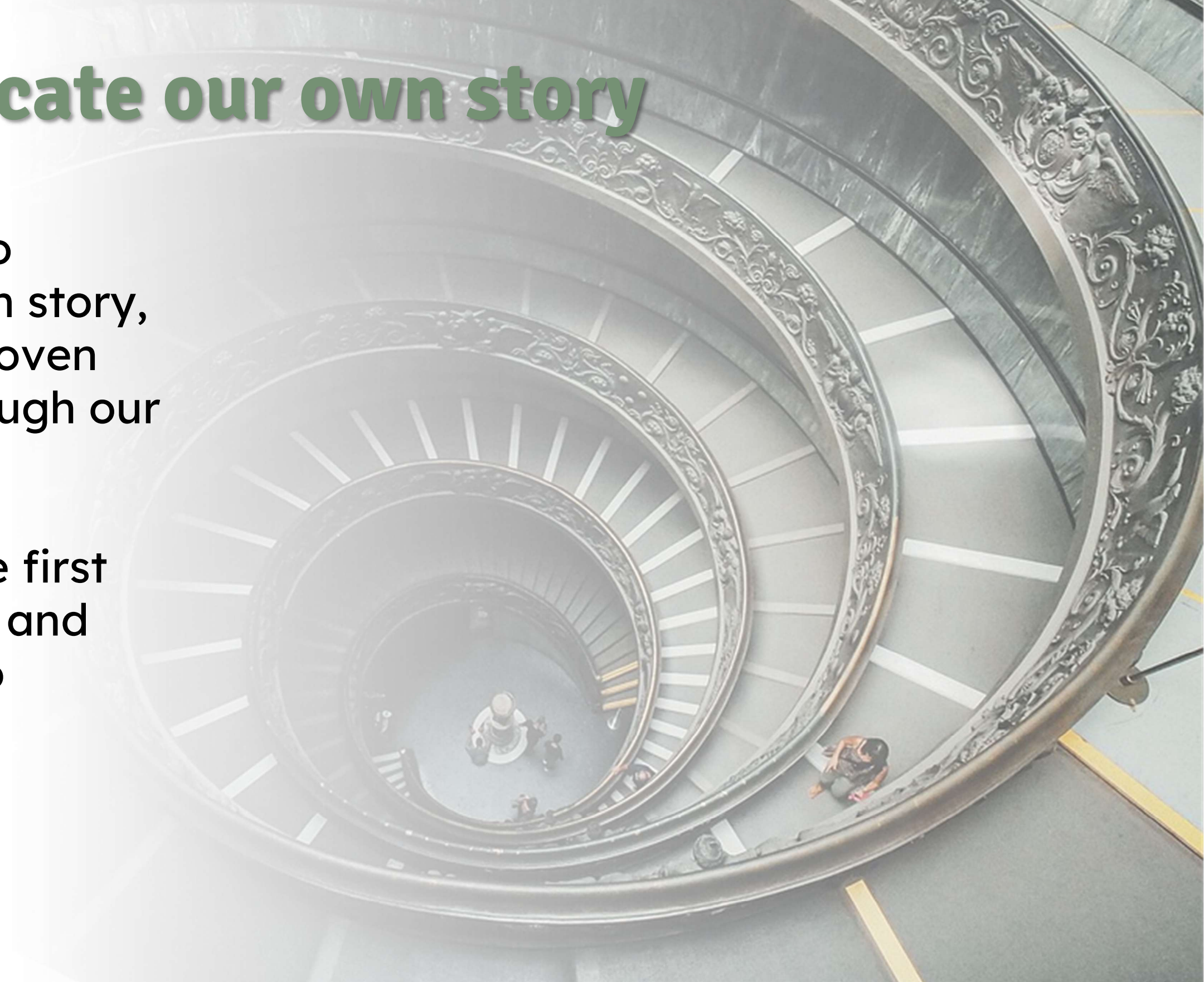
The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I have done; could this be the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they made their way towards him... Many Samaritans of that town believed in him on the strength of the woman's words of testimony, 'He told me everything I have done.' (Jn 4:28-30,39).



We communicate our own story

Jesus also sends us to communicate our own story, all that we are interwoven with his passage through our lives.

Communicating in the first person is the clearest and most effective way to proclaim the Gospel's message.



We communicate our own story

Why do you think it is important to communicate one's story so that others can encounter Jesus?



Jesus makes us communicate

Jesus went up to a mountainside and called those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve to be with him and to send them out to preach. (Mk 3:13-14).



Jesus makes us communicate

Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, "Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'. She went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord and he has said this." (Jn 20:17-18)



Jesus makes us communicate

Anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples"... So what are we waiting for? (Evangelii Gaudium 120).



Jesus makes us communicate

Before communicating,
we need to be transformed by
the message we communicate.
Jesus makes us communicate.

*Is it like this for you?
How can it be more so?*



We communicate with the language of life

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables, he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will proclaim things hidden since the creation of the world" (Mt 13:34-35).



We communicate with the language of life

Jesus spoke with the language of life.

He spoke in simple words and images that his listeners could easily understand and interpret.

Jesus was trying to make the message he was announcing accessible.



We communicate with the language of life

*What language do you
communicate with?*

*Do you communicate with
words, gestures and images
that people can easily
understand?*



Communicating Resurrection

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb... The angel spoke to the women: "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here: He is risen, as he said. Come and see the place where he lay, and go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Behold, I have told you."

They hurried away from the tomb; full of fear and joy they ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said to them, "Rejoice". They came and embraced his feet and worshipped him. Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Mt 28:1-10)



Communicating Resurrection

The situations we live in our world, often concern people experiencing difficult realities of scarcity, sickness and pain.

Our friendly presence is called to be the presence of God and the seed of his Kingdom.

With our gestures and our words we are called to communicate Resurrection.



Communicating Resurrection

The experience of suffering and death, our own and that of many, lead us to be deeply rooted in the realism of human life, full of beauty and vulnerability.

Only by welcoming the Passion, visiting the empty tomb and waiting for the manifestation of Life, can we walk towards the unfailing hope of the Resurrection.

It is the only way can we translate and communicate God's strength because his love is stronger. In our weakness, we are strengthened by God's grace.



Communicating Resurrection

The women of the dawn on that first day of the week were the first witnesses of the Resurrection.

In the midst of difficult situations and death, how do you accept the challenge of communicating the hope of Resurrection?



We communicate what God communicated to us

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched, this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you. (1 Jn 1:1-5)



We communicate what God communicated to us

- We communicate an experience
- We have seen and heard God's communication
- Our bodies have touched it
- God has communicated Life to us
- We are witnesses, we bear witness
- We seek to create communion
- We share the joy that inhabits us
- We proclaim a message
- We want to bring the world to God
- We venture to communicate because God communicated with us.
- We communicate what God communicated to us

A close-up, grayscale photograph of a hand holding a wooden cross. The hand is positioned in the upper right, with fingers wrapped around the cross. The cross is made of light-colored wood and has a simple, rustic design. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden surface or another part of the cross.

We communicate what God communicated to us

*And you, what do you
communicate?*

*Do you communicate what you
have experienced of God?*

The Spirit empowers us

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each other. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:1-4)



The Spirit empowers us

- The synodal journey invites us to pray together, waiting for the Spirit so that we can walk side by side.
- The Spirit will always visit us in a surprising and new way.
- We will see new spaces opening up in and around us, unknown invitations, renewed desires and unexplored forms of communication.



The Spirit empowers us

- We need to let the Spirit fill us, embrace us, surround us, transform us, gather us and send us out in communion.
- Our evangelizing communication will be renewed, we will speak new languages, we will express a new form of imagination, and we will transform the world from within.



The Spirit empowers us

*Do you believe in the
renewing power of the
Spirit in our lives?*

Ask the Holy Spirit to be
able to communicate in a
renewed and creative way.



We communicate for God is communication

Amen.

