

# COLLABORATION - 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 learn to foster collaboration in our apostolates in order to draw fruits from the abundant blessings it brings.**

Jesuits are both “men for others” and “men with others.” This basic characteristic of our way of proceeding calls for an attitude and readiness to cooperate, to listen and to learn from others, to share our spiritual and apostolic inheritance. To be “men with others” is a central aspect of our charism and deepens our identity. (...) Cooperation with laity in mission requires the formation and renewal of all Jesuits. Initial formation must develop our capacity for collaboration with both laity and fellow Jesuits by means of education and experiences of ministerial cooperation with others. Ongoing formation in apostolic situations — if we listen to others, learn from their spirituality, and face together the difficulties of genuine cooperation — will deepen this capacity. Both in our initial and ongoing formation, lay people can help us understand and respect their distinct vocation as well as appreciate our own.

**Decree 13: “Cooperation with the Laity in Mission,” General Congregation 34 (1995)**

In his day, St. Ignatius gave shelter to the homeless of Rome, cared for prostitutes, and established homes for orphans. He sought collaborators and with them established organizations and networks to continue these and many other forms of service. To respond today to the pressing needs of our complex and fragile world, many hands are surely needed. Collaboration in mission is the way we respond to this situation: it expresses our true identity as members of the Church, the complementarity of our diverse calls to holiness, our mutual responsibility for the mission of Christ, our desire to join people of good will in the service of the human family, and the coming of the Kingdom of God. It is a grace given to us in this moment, one consistent with our Jesuit way of proceeding.

**Decree 6: “Collaboration at the Heart of Mission,” General Congregation 35 (2008)**

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

I hear a call to collaborate with others but it is difficult to work with my colleague who always puts obstacles along the way, when I focus on the gifts of this person, what do I find? Can these gifts be an opening for growth of both me and him?