

## **TABLE TALK DISCUSSION STARTER IDEAS**

What strikes you as most interesting and notable in the ideas, experiences and stories that you have heard today?

What is most positive about being in a parish relationship? What is most challenging? What kinds of new possibilities for ministry and mission could be possible through cooperation between several congregations together? How many possibilities can you think of? Be creative!

How is leadership shared in your congregations and parish among lay and clergy leaders? Are there ways this partnership and active leadership of a number of people could be enriched and expanded?

What are we hearing God call us to do?

What is God dreaming about? As leaders in multi-point rural congregations:

- What key question (or questions) is God asking us today?
- What issue (or issues) does God want us to talk about today?
- What challenge (or challenges) is God calling us to tackle today?

What is our purpose as a parish (or congregation) and how is it shaping what we are being called to do?

Why does God want your parish to exist?

What keeps you from having more fun, being more excited, accomplishing amazing things, experiencing in the strongest way possible the love of Christ in your faith community? What things, if they were different would open up greater excitement, fun, enthusiasm commitment? How many of these things are not dependant on great amounts of money and people?

Who are your neighbors who are not connected to a faith community? What keeps them from connecting with one of your congregations or any Christian faith community? What are their longings and needs? In what ways might God already be present in their life? What would make a difference in their hearing more about the good news of Jesus and perhaps also connecting with a Christian community? What kind of Christian community would they want to connect with, if they were open at all to making such a connection? How might they change your congregation and parish?

Do people in our parish relate and work well with diverse members – are they open to different points of view? What are examples of that happening well? What are examples of where that might be a growth area and ideas for addressing that?

What miraculous things is God already doing in you and in your parish, congregation and community?

What are the things in your own life, and in your congregation, in your parish and in your community that are breaking God's heart and that god wants to see changed?