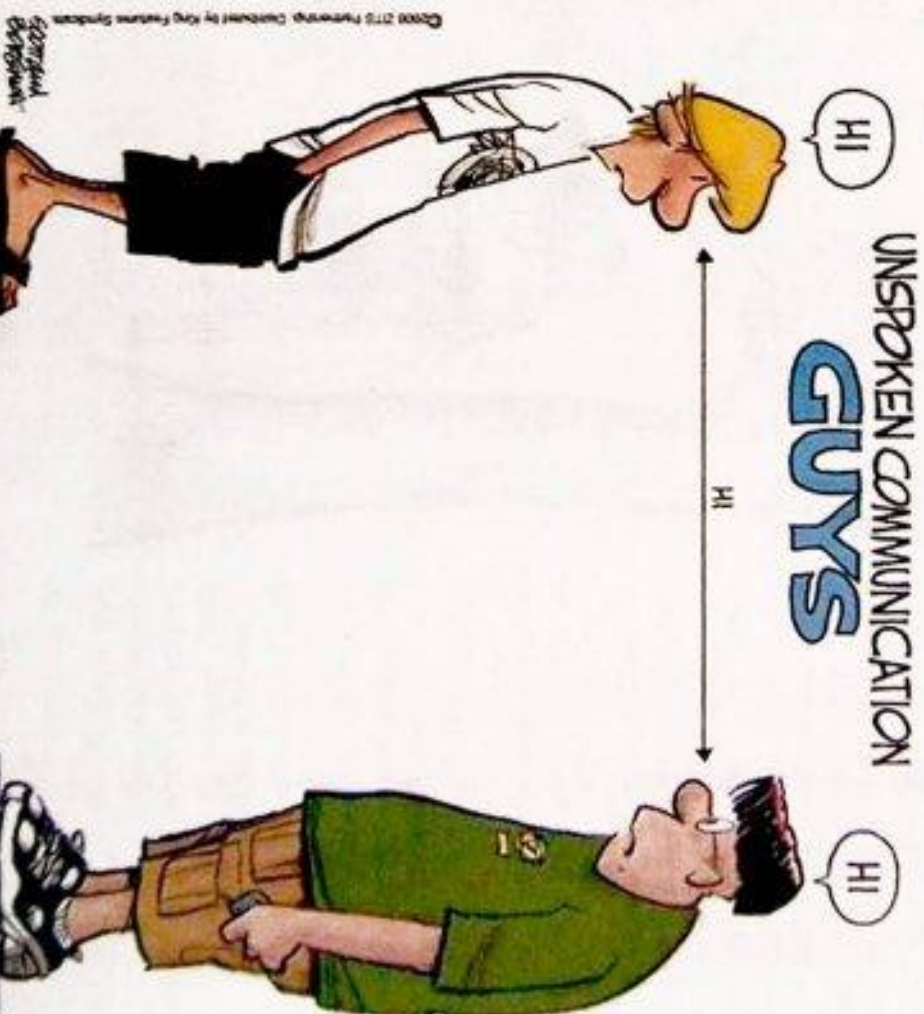
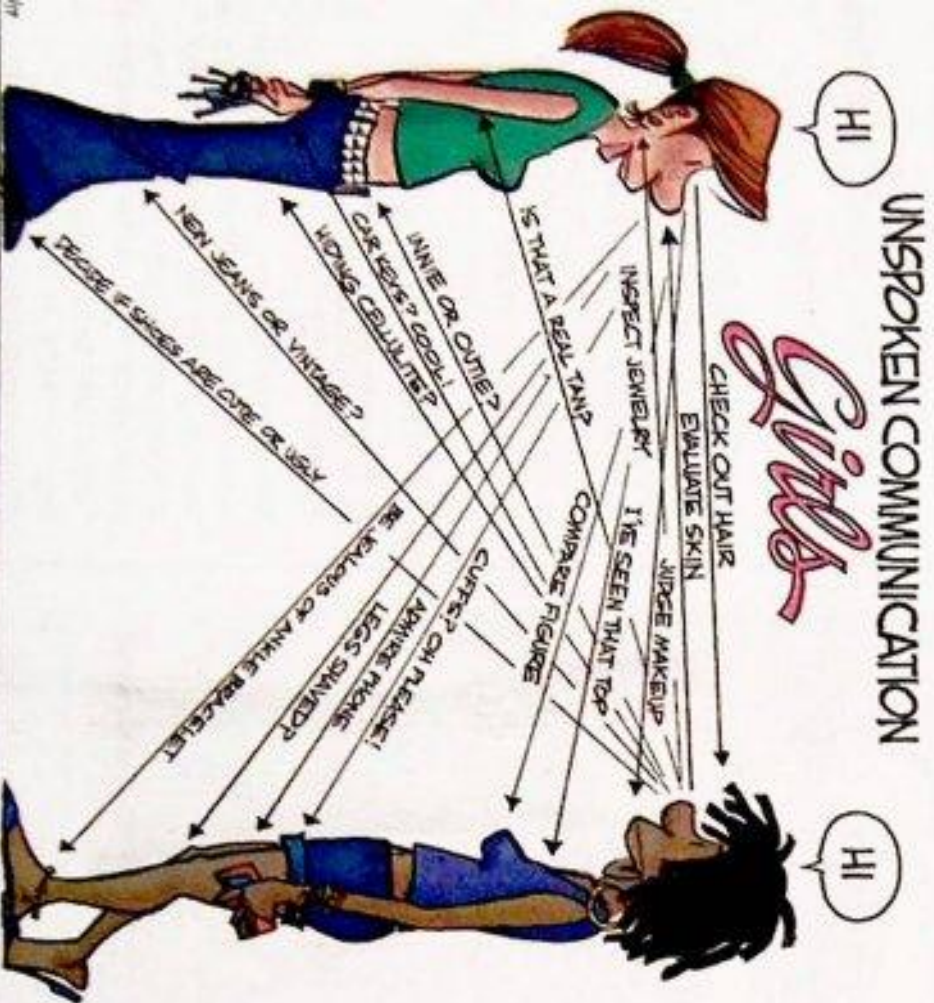


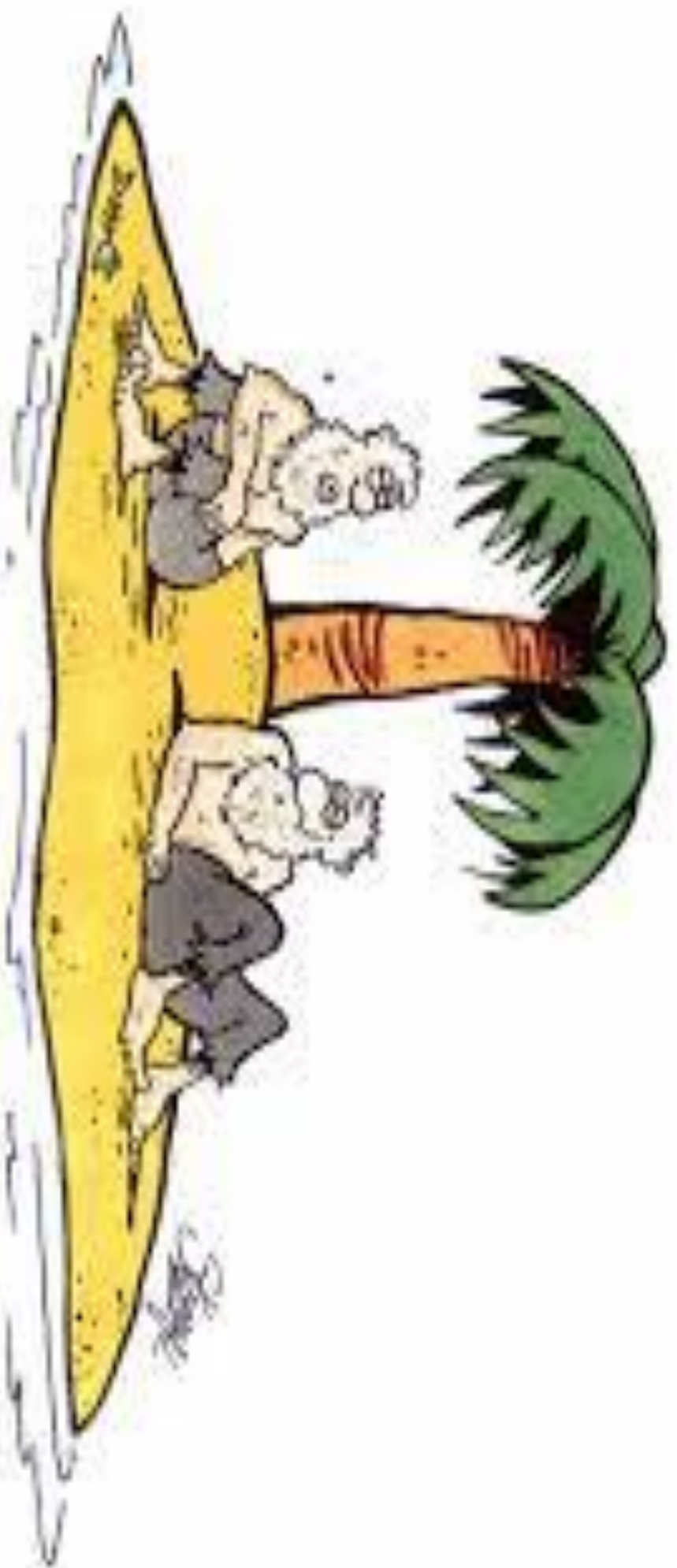
Spiritual Conversation

A MINISTRY SEEKING THE JOY OF CONSOLATION

We need help







"IM SORRY, WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?"

*Then those who revered the Lord
spoke with one another.*

The Lord took note and listened.

Malachi 3:16

Spiritual conversation is not
necessarily about spiritual
things





Conversations of Depth

Characteristics of Spiritual Conversation

- ▶ 1. Active, intentional listening – non-judgmental welcome.
- ▶ 2. Speaking from the heart – vulnerability.
- ▶ 3. Trust – in each other, in oneself, in God.
- ▶ 4. Freedom – free to encounter, a spiritual poverty.



Active, non-judgmental, intentional
listening - welcome



Speaking from the heart - vulnerability



TRUST – in the other, in oneself, in God.

Spiritual
conversation
presupposes and
builds spiritual
freedom





Basic Questions

What is going on in the other
person and in me?

To what is the Holy Spirit
calling the community?

Format



- ▶ Check-in: Interior disposition at time of meeting.
- ▶ Period of prayer/meditative reflection on question/issue at hand.

First Round of Conversation

- ▶ Round of personal sharing (fruit of prayer)
- ▶ Active listening
 - ▶ Profound welcome of the other.
 - ▶ How is the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the other person?
 - ▶ How are you affected by what is said?
- ▶ Intentional speaking
 - ▶ Speak from your prayer (not from someone else's)
- ▶ Practical matters
 - ▶ Speak one after the other.
 - ▶ Timed
 - ▶ No comments or cross-talk (even in one's own sharing). No discussion.

Second Round of Conversation

This is where the communal movements of spirits start to emerge

- ▶ Reflective Sharing: How were you affected interiorly by what you heard in the first round? For example ...
- ▶ What did you hear in the first round?
- ▶ Were you struck by a common theme?
- ▶ Did you experience harmony/dissonance with the others as they shared?
- ▶ What emotions are you feeling now?
- ▶ Practical matters
 - ▶ Popcorn style
 - ▶ Short intervention
 - ▶ Speak only once
 - ▶ No cross talk
- ▶ Not a chance to say something you forgot to say in the first round.

Third Round of Conversation

- ▶ Open Discussion
 - ▶ Name the spiritual movements recognized in the second round of conversation.
 - ▶ Same attentiveness and sincerity of spiritual conversation.
 - ▶ If there is a question to be considered in the spiritual conversation, this is when a communal response may be formulated.

Proposed Process

- ▶ Read Draft 4. Sleep on it.
- ▶ Personal Prayer
 - ▶ As I read the Life and Mission document as a whole, what consolations and/or desolations do I experience?
 - ▶ What is the Spirit wanting to say to the Society of Jesus?
 - ▶ From my prayer, what will I share with the group?
- ▶ Spiritual Conversation in small groups:
 - ▶ First round: sharing the fruit of personal prayer.
 - ▶ Second round: How was I affected by what I heard in the first round?
 - ▶ Third round: Group attempts to identify the communal spiritual movements in the second round.
- ▶ Aulca: Sharing of communal spiritual movements with prayerful listening.
- ▶ Are we ready to vote?
- ▶ Can this text become a decree and continue to be developed?



Now, ... let us (communally) put our heads together!