**DeepMIX, session 1, opening Examen**

Let us begin.

Let us begin in gratitude to God for this company and this opportunity. Let us begin to open our hearts and quiet our selves, so that we can more clearly hear God’s voice.

Let us begin with gratitude for beginnings. Let us recall with gratitude what brought us here; the Mission and Identity program that formed us. Let us recall with gratitude what brought us here; the impetus for joining our companions in continuing that formation. Let us thank God for these gifts.

Let us begin by listening to our hearts. What do we hope? What do we fear?

Let us begin to examine a hope or fear. From where does it come? What will we do with it?

Let us begin to look forward to this new program with our collective hopes and fears. Let us resolve to do God’s bidding in this endeavor.

Let us pray: (borrowed from Fr. John Veltri, S.J.)

O God,  
I find myself at the beginning.  
I do not know what it will bring.  
Please help me to be ready for whatever it may be.

If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely.  
If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly.  
If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently.  
If I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly.

I pray just for now, for this single hour,  
for the ability to cooperate with others according to the way Jesus taught us to live.  
“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”  
May these words that he taught us become more than words.

Please free my thinking and feelings and the thinking and feelings of others here,  
from all forms of self-will, self-centeredness, dishonesty, and deception.  
Along with my brothers and sisters,  
I need this freedom to make my choices today according to your desires.  
Send your Spirit to inspire me in time of doubt and indecision so that, together, we can walk along your path. Amen.