

Your Special Gifts & Family Life



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Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates **all of them** in **everyone**. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *1 Cor 12: 4-7*

A Generous Spirit!



- The Scriptures and tradition of the Church teach us that the Holy Spirit blesses us with Gifts, and Fruits and Charisms!
- Which is which?

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- The 7 Gifts are based on Isaiah 11: 2-3.
- They are seven supernatural graces given to your soul at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation.
- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel (right judgment)
- Fortitude (courage)
- Knowledge
- Piety (reverence)
- Fear of the Lord (wonder & awe)

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- The Fruits of the Spirit are based on Galatians 5:22-23.
 - They are twelve human qualities that are activated or strengthened in us by the Holy Spirit.
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- Charity (love)
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Patience
 - Kindness (benignity)
 - Goodness
 - Generosity (long-suffering)
 - Gentleness (humility)
 - Faithfulness
 - Modesty
 - Self-control (continence)
 - Chastity

Charisms

- [*Charism*] comes from the Greek *charismata*, gifts of grace, and is used by Paul [*in 1 Corinthians*] for the extraordinary, supernatural, and transitory gifts **given directly for the common good**, which is the spiritual welfare of the Christian community.

The Catholic Source Book

- “Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men and to the needs of the world.” CCC 799

The Charisms of 1 Cor 12:8-10

- Utterance of wisdom
- Utterance of knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healing
- Working of miracles/mighty deeds
- Prophecy
- Discernment of spirits
- Speaking in tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

More on Charisms

- Charisms of Administration: Gifts for shepherding God's people
- Charisms of Knowledge: Gifts for the mind, to instruct others in faith
- Charisms of Prayer: Gifts of communing with God
- Charisms of Service: Almsgiving, Manifestation of mercy, Helpfulness, Leadership

The Catholic Source Book, p 73

Use Your Gifts

- All of these, Gifts, Fruits and Charisms are given to us or are activated in us for a purpose. They are not given to us for our own benefit, but for the benefit of the Church, and the community – the people of God.
- How can I use the Gifts the Holy Spirit has given me to serve God and His people?

Family Life

- A man and a woman united in marriage form a family together with their children. *CCC 2202*
- God instituted the family and endowed it with its fundamental constitution. *CCC 2203*
- Marriage and family are ordered to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education of children. *CCC 2201*
- In Christ the family becomes the *domestic church* because it is a community of faith, of hope, and of charity. *CCC 2204*

Family Duties & Responsibilities

- Children owe respect, gratitude, docility and obedience to their parents. ...Adult children should give their parents material and moral support whenever they find themselves in situations of distress, sickness, loneliness or old age. *CCC 2218*
- Parents have the duty to love and respect their children as *persons* and as *children of God* and to provide, as far as is possible, for their physical and spiritual needs.
- In particular they [*parents*] have the mission of educating their children in the Christian faith.

CCC 2223

Raising a Christian Family

- Sign of the cross, blessing with holy water
- Praying aloud as a family before meals, bedtime, morning, rosary
- Prayer corner in home
- Sacramental preparation at home (catechesis)
- Religious symbols in the home (crucifix, icons, pictures, etc)
- Sacramentals (blessed items): holy water, rosary, palms...
- Reading age-appropriate Bible stories
- Encouraging appropriate participation in rites
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Educate Your Family in the Faith

How do we do that?!

1. Example “ Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words” St Francis of Assisi
2. Prayer
3. Family catechesis (/kattikeesis/)
4. Participation in the life of the Church

10 Good Reasons to Raise Your Kids Catholic

1. So they'll have some rules to reject when they are teenagers.
2. So they'll have some rules to reconsider when they have kids of their own.
3. So they'll have some values to cherish for the rest of their lives.
4. So they'll have something to hang on to when times are bad.
5. So they'll have at least a raggedy Good News Bible somewhere in their house or apartment that they can read for wisdom when they're older and interested.

10 Good Reasons to Raise Your Kids Catholic

6. So they'll come to know that every person wears the face of Christ in a different way, even those who seem to be enemies.
7. So they'll have an experience of faith in the community.
8. So they'll know that Christmas is about the gift of love in their hearts.
9. So they'll know about Jesus' death & resurrection and understand that life is more than suffering.
10. So they'll know that heaven begins on the spot where they're standing and that they are here for God and that God is with them always.

Share *Your* Faith: The 5 Precepts

1. **Attend mass** on Sundays and holy days of obligation and remain free from work or activity on those days that could impede the sanctification of the day.
2. **Confess your sins** at least once a year
3. **Receive the Eucharist** at least during the Easter season
4. Observe the days of **fasting and abstinence** established by the Church (Good Friday, Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of the year)
5. **Help provide** for the needs of the Church

Discussion

- What gifts do you see in yourself? In others?
- How can your gifts best serve God, the Church, the world?
- Which Church ministry appeals to you?
- As a group, share specific ways of raising a Christian family. What worked for you? What didn't?

Homework

Read *Journey of Faith* handouts M3, M4

Pray!! Ask the Spirit to reveal your gifts to you and inspire you.

Remember we have different Gifts to offer at different times in our lives.

Share your gifts with your family and our community!

Let Us Pray...



Prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)