



M3: Your Special Gifts

M4: Family Life

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A generous Spirit!



- Scripture and the Tradition of the Church teach us that the **Holy Spirit** blesses us with **Gifts** and **Fruits** and **Charisms**
- We love lists!

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Isaiah 11:1-3

- The Gifts of the Spirit 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)

Gifts of the Spirit

- **Wisdom:** enables us to see God at work in our lives & in the world
- **Understanding:** enables us to understand how we need to live as followers of Christ
- **Counsel** (Right Judgement): enables us to know the difference between right & wrong and to choose to do what is right
- **Fortitude** (Courage): enables us to overcome our fear and be willing to take risks as followers of Jesus
- **Knowledge:** enables us to understand the meaning of God's revelation, especially as expressed in the life & words of Jesus
- **Piety** (Reverence): enables us to have a deep sense of respect for God and the Church
- **Fear of the Lord** (Wonder & Awe): enables us to be aware of the glory and majesty of God

Fruits of the Holy Spirit Galatians 5:19-23

- The Fruits of the Spirit are 12 human qualities that are activated or strengthened in us by the Holy Spirit.
 - ❖ Charity
 - ❖ Joy
 - ❖ Peace
 - ❖ Patience
 - ❖ Kindness (benignity)
 - ❖ Goodness
 - ❖ Generosity (long-suffering)
 - ❖ Gentleness (mildness, humility)
 - ❖ Faithfulness
 - ❖ Modesty
 - ❖ Self-Control (continence)
 - ❖ Chastity
- ❖ These are the fruits (or results, consequences) of using the Gifts

Gifts/Charisms of the Spirit 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

The Key to all the Gifts

- 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 Corinthians 12:4-7)

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, that is, the community – the people of God.
- How can I use the Gifts the Holy Spirit has given me to serve God and His people?
- Pray!! Discern!! Ask the Spirit to reveal your gifts to you and inspire you.
- Parish ministry fair in September
- Your gifts might take you **outside the parish**: food bank, homeless shelter, prison, hospital visitor, fundraiser, lobbyist, etc.

Ideas for Discussion

- Handouts: List of Gifts, List of Ministries
- ❖ What gifts do you see in yourself? In others?
- ❖ How can your gifts best serve God, and God's people?
- ❖ Which Church ministry appeals to you?
- ❖ Remember we have different Gifts to offer at different times in our lives.

M4: Family Life

Family Life

- ❖ The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches:
 - ❖ 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)
- ❖ **Recent events:**
 - ❖ The Church is starting to acknowledge that many families do not look like this traditional husband-wife-children pattern of a family, and Pope Francis has called bishops from around the world to meet and discuss how best to minister to ALL kinds of families. (Synod on the Family)

The purpose of family

- ❖ Marriage and family are ordered to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education of children.
- ❖ In Christ the family becomes the *domestic church* because it is a community of faith, of hope, and of charity.

(*Compendium*, 456)

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. (*Compendium 459*)
- 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. (*Compendium 460*)

Educating your family in the Faith

How do we do that??

1. Example
2. Prayer
3. Family catechesis
4. Participation in the life of the Church

Share your Faith: the 5 precepts

- Practise what you Preach (explain along the way)
 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

Ideas for Discussion

- How to raise a Christian family: what worked for you, what didn't?
 - ❖ Sign of the cross, blessing with holy water
 - ❖ Praying aloud as a family before meals, bedtime, morning, rosary
 - ❖ Works of charity (feed poor, house homeless, visit sick or imprisoned, etc)
 - ❖ 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
 - ❖ ???