



CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP

A work of the Missionaries of God's Love

Charisms

Theological Foundations of Mission 13

Inspire us to give
generously of
ourselves, so that
people may be drawn
into the mystery of
love, and experience
the fullness of life.



The Holy Spirit's Gifts

1. Sanctifying grace – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord
2. Charisms – charisms given to individuals as the Spirit wishes, graces of service

1 Cor 12-14; Ephesians 4:7-16, 1 Pet 4:10-11, Rom 12:3-8



Called and Gifted – Catherine of Siena Institute

- Sherry Weddell
- Spiritual gifts or charisms inventories were developed in Protestant churches.
- Called and Gifted is the first inventory in the Catholic Church



Charisms

- Are long-term (not temporary)
- Bears results beyond our natural abilities but may be developed
- Received not achieved
- Minority experience
- All of us are called to evangelise, pray for others, but some have charism
- Different between a skill, talent, and charism
- Charisms can be distorted because of our sin, but not used for evil
- Not the same as consolation, mystical experience



When we Exercise a Charism

- We feel energized
- It 'fits', feel we have found our place
- We are fruitful without excessive strain or struggle
- Experience of joyful satisfaction



Gift Mix

- The particular *combination* of charisms that God has given *you*.
- Most are given more than one charism.
- Charisms work together.
- Each charism affects how other gifts are expressed.



Types of Charisms

- *Pastoral*: nurture of individuals and community
- *Communication*: communicating truth to change lives
- *Organizational*: structuring an organization or group
- *Lifestyle*: a lifestyle and freedom for unusual ministry
- *Healing*: channeling God's healing and restoration
- *Understanding*: the ways of God and humanity
- *Creative*: creative activity that orders and beautifies.



Pastoral Charisms

- Focus is upon the personal nurture of individuals and communities
 - Encouragement
 - Helps
 - Hospitality
 - Mercy
 - Pastoring



Pastoral Charisms

- Encouragement: empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's love—*nurturing others through his or her presence and words of comfort, encouragement, and counsel.*
- Helps: empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's goodness—*using his or her talents and charisms to enable other individuals to serve God and people more effectively.*
- Hospitality: empowers a Christian to be a generous channel of God's love *by warmly welcoming and caring for those in need of food, shelter, and friendship.*



Pastoral Charisms (cont.)

- Mercy: empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's love *through practical deeds of compassion that relieve the distress of those who suffer and help them experience God's love.*
- Pastoring: empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's love - *building Christian community by nurturing the relationships and long-term spiritual growth of a group.*



Communication Charisms

- Focus is upon transforming lives through communicating truth
 - Evangelism
 - Prophecy
 - Teaching



Communication Charisms

- **Evangelism:** empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's love – *by sharing the faith with others in a way that draws them to become disciples of Jesus and responsible members of his Church.*
- **Prophecy:** empowers a Christian to be a channel of divine truth and wisdom – *by communicating a word or call of God to individuals or a group through inspired words or actions.*
- **Teaching:** empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's truth and wisdom – *enabling others to learn information and skills that help them reach their fullest spiritual and personal potential.*



Organisational Charisms

- Focus is upon the vision or structural needs of an organisation or group
 - Administration
 - Giving
 - Leadership
 - Service



Organisational Charisms

- Administration: empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's wisdom - *by providing the planning and coordination needed to accomplish good things.*
- Leadership: empowers a Christian to be an agent of God's purposes— *sharing a compelling vision of a better future with others and by directing the overall efforts of a group as they work together to make the vision a reality.*
- Service: *empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's purposes— recognizing the gaps or unmet needs that prevent good things from happening, and by personally doing whatever it takes to bridge the gap or meet the need.*



Organisational Charisms

- Giving: empowers a Christian to be a cheerful channel of God's provision *by giving with exceptional generosity to those in need.*



Lifestyle Charisms

- Focus: Distinctive lifestyle and freedom for unusual ministry
 - Celibacy
 - Faith
 - Missionary
 - Voluntary poverty



Lifestyle Charisms

- **Celibacy:** empowers a Christian to be – *most fulfilled and spiritually fruitful by remaining unmarried and celibate for the sake of Christ.*
- **Faith:** empowers a Christian to be an effective agent of God's purposes - *through an unusual trust in the love, power, and provision of God and a remarkable freedom to act on this trust.*
- **Missionary:** empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's goodness to others - *effectively and joyfully using their charisms in a second culture.*
- **Voluntary Poverty:** empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's loving presence - *by living a life of cheerful, voluntary simplicity or poverty in order to identify with Jesus and the poor.*



Healing Charisms

- Focus is upon being a channel of God's healing and restoration
 - Healing
 - Intercessory prayer



Healing Charisms

- Healing: empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's love - *through whom God cures illness and restores health when healing is unlikely to occur quickly or to happen at all.*
- Intercessory Prayer: *empowers the intense prayer of a Christian for others to be the means* by which God's love and deliverance reaches those in need.



Charisms of Understanding

- Focus is upon understanding the ways of God and humanity
 - Discernment of spirits
 - Knowledge
 - Wisdom



Charisms of Understanding

- Knowledge: empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's truth – *through diligent study and intellectual activity that enables us to better understand God, ourselves, and the universe.*
- Wisdom: empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's goodness – *through remarkable insight that enables him or her to come up with creative solutions to specific problems and make good decisions.*
- Discernment of Spirits: empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's wisdom - *accurately perceiving a divine or demonic presence in certain people, places or things.*



Creative Charisms

- Focus is upon creative activity that orders and beautifies
 - Craftsmanship
 - Music
 - Writing



Creative Charisms

- **Craftsmanship:** empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's goodness to others - *through artistic or creative work that beautifies and/or orders the physical world.*
- **Music:** empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's creative goodness to others – *through writing or performing music for the delight of others and the praise of God.*
- **Writing:** empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's creativity - *by using words to create works of truth or beauty that reflect the fullness of human experience and bring glory to God.*

