

Starting Afresh From Christ

Conscious of the Risen Lord's presence among us, we ask ourselves today the same question put to Peter in Jerusalem immediately after his Pentecost speech: "What must we do?" (Acts 2:37). We put the question with trusting optimism, but without underestimating the problems we face. We are certainly not seduced by the naive expectation that, faced with the great challenges of our time, we shall find some magic formula. No, we shall not be saved by a formula but by a Person, and the assurance which He gives us: *I am with you!* It is not therefore a matter of inventing a "new program". The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition, ...it has its center in Christ Himself....This is a program which does not change with shifts of times and cultures, even though it takes account of time and culture for the sake of true dialogue and effective communication. This program for all times is our program for the Third Millennium. But it must be translated into *pastoral initiatives adapted to the circumstances of each community*. (© John Paul II, 2001, # 29 *Novo Millennio Ineunte*)

The Gifted and Called Ministry is NOT a new program. It is God's plan for the Church's "modus vivendi" (way of life), that continually awakens, calls forth, coaches, and encourages each baptized person to develop his or her gifts for ministry, ensuring that each person is needed and each is instrumental in building up the Church—the Body of Christ.

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Take The Charism Quiz

What charism is at work in those who...

1. Seem to speak God's very own words of hope and encouragement when others cannot see a way through a situation?
2. Awaken in the middle of the night and immediately begin to pray, sometimes without even knowing for whom or for what purpose?
3. Give from what they have, to others who have less because they know God will meet their every need?
4. When presented a challenge or goal, immediately think of the steps that need to be taken to achieve the desired result?
5. Pray with the sick and they are healed?
6. See obstacles that keep good and holy things from happening and do whatever it takes me to remove them?
7. Love to talk with others about Jesus, the Church's teachings, and the works of God in the world?
8. Show compassion for those who are mistreated?
9. Enjoy greeting and making others feel welcome?
10. Effectively convey biblical and spiritual insights and truths to others?

Answers to the Above Question:

1. Prophecy 2. Intercession 3. Giving 4. Administration
5. Healing 6. Organization 7. Evangelization 8. Mercy
9. Hospitality 10. Teaching

To learn more about these and other charisms of the Holy Spirit that are given to each one, to build up the Church, bring Christ to the world, and bring the world to Christ, please contact the *Gifted and Called Ministry Team*.

Gifted and Called: A Parish Way of Life for the New Millennium



Transforming Parishes Into
Schools of Prayer, Holiness,
Communion, and
Evangelization

Parish Renewal Mission/Retreat Series

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Building The Culture of Pentecost

...wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak...in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit' (Acts 1:4).

...I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Lk 24:49).

The Holy Spirit belongs to the whole Church. The Spirit always has belonged to the Church. Living in the Spirit is not new, yet in this new millennium, it must be renewed continually in every baptized person. The power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives must be retold and re-emphasized each time the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed—whether it be in words or in actions.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994) states that life in the Spirit fulfills the very vocation of man. It declares that the Holy Spirit animates all creation, awakens our faith, enables us to communicate with Christ, grants gifts to all is the master and source of prayer, restores us to Divine likeness, reveals God and the Trinity to us and is the source of all holiness (#1699; 703; 684; 683; 2003; 741; 2652; 734, 244; 684; 687; 740).

We did not receive the power of the Holy Spirit—the gifts and charisms—for our sanctification alone but also, that we might build up the Body of Christ, the Church. Without the Holy Spirit we are in fact as powerless as were the disciples before Pentecost to live in Christ. We are powerless to even pray, grow holy, or build community. Above all we are powerless to evangelize others to follow Christ....What awaits us therefore is an exciting work of pastoral revitalization — a work involving all of us (2000, NMI, John Paul II)

Plan the Stages of the Journey Ahead Novo Millennio Ineunte, 2001

The 4-Year Parish Treatment Plan

In *Novo Millennio Ineunte* Pope John Paul II meant to excite us to renew the face of the earth when he said, "...so much awaits us in the coming years and for this reason, we must set about drawing up an effective post-Jubilee pastoral plan....I therefore earnestly exhort the Pastors of the particular Churches, with the help of all sectors of God's People, confidently to plan the stages of the journey ahead, harmonizing the choices of each diocesan community with those of neighboring Churches and of the universal Church (p. 40)

- Year I— Leadership Formation: Pastors, pastoral leaders, and parish ministry coordinators participate in the Gifted and Called Retreat — beginning the charism discernment process, calling forth charisms, and continuing charism study and formation.
- Year II— Ministry Formation: Parish ministers participate in the Gifted and Called Retreat — beginning the charism discernment process, calling forth charisms, and continuing charism study and formation.
- Year III— Parish Formation: New members and parish member participate in Gifted and Called Workshop — beginning the charism discernment process, calling forth charisms, and continuing charism study and formation.

The Gifted and Call Ministry Team consults with pastors and their pastoral leaders to design and implement a unique on-going spiritual growth initiative that enables parishioners to discern their charisms and mature in using their charisms in their family, work, and parish life. Parish leaders are coached and mentored by the Team so that they themselves are prepared to promote charism discernment as an on-going natural way of parish life.

In the cause of the Kingdom, there is no time for looking back and even less time for settling into laziness." Pope John Paul II (2000) cautions us not to develop pastoral plans based upon what we have done in the past but rather based upon fresh new initiatives, forward-looking ideas, culturally relevant methods, and risk-taking ventures that would bring souls to Christ. He tells us that it is in the local churches that the specific features of a detailed pastoral plan can be identified — goals and methods, formation and enrichment of the people involved, the search for the necessary resources—which will enable the proclamation of Christ to reach people, mold communities, and have a deep and incisive influence in bringing Gospel values to bear in society and culture.

The Impact of Being Gifted and Called

As Parish Members

- We place ourselves in the presence of Jesus and one another to continue to learn and grow—to practice what we preach and teach.
- We agree to continually discern, develop, and operate in our charisms in our families, our parishes, and our community.
- We honestly discuss and ask others to critique our ministry work as we operate in our charisms.
- We are called forth by our pastor and pastoral leaders to use our charisms to build up the Body of Christ.
- We are renewed and strengthened daily by God's love and mercy.
- We learn how to more deeply surrender our wills to God's will.
- We challenge one another to grow.
- We mature in loving others.
- We mature in using the charisms of the Holy Spirit.
- We coach and mentor others to take our place as parish leaders.
- We intercede for our parish, one another, and each other's ministries and charisms.