

HOPE IN THE FUTURE

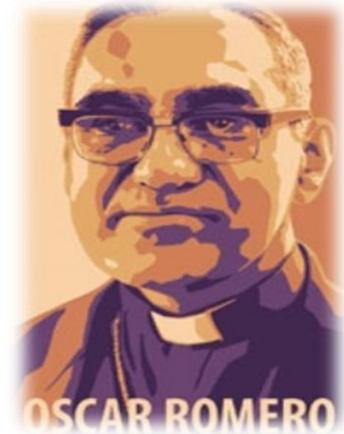


USING YOUR GIFTS, TALENTS & CHARISMS FOR YOUR PARISH

Prayer Reflection

A Future not our own - Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime
only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise
that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No programme
accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives
includes everything.
That is what we are about.
We plant a seed that will one day grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations
that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation
in realising that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.



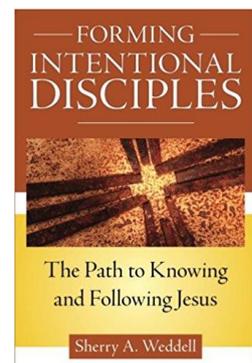
What are Charisms?

Charism is simply the Greek word used in the New Testament for "favour" or "gratuitous gift." Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to Christians by the Holy Spirit to enable them to be powerful channels of God's love and redeeming presence in the world. Whether extraordinary or ordinary, charisms are to be used in charity or service to build up the Church (CCC 2003).

There are gifts of the Holy Spirit that we are given to keep and gifts we are given to give away. The additional "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit" and the fruits of the Spirit are gifts given to us to keep. They are part of our inner transformation as Christians and provide the inner "Christ-likeness" necessary for the effective use of our charisms (CCC 1830-1832) Charisms, on the other hand, are gifts given to us to give away.

Charisms are always focused outward: they enable God's love and goodness to reach our neighbour through us.

"Charisms play a critical role in the mission of evangelisation. Charisms are ways that you and I are empowered by God to be channels of his love, mercy, beauty, truth, wisdom, healing, and provision for others. The power of God flowing through a charism can help reveal Christ, remove impediments to belief, and encourage others to open their lives to God and receive sanctifying grace through the sacraments. It is critical that we understand that charisms are given to all the baptised, not just to a few extraordinary Christians, and to individuals as well as to religious communities and movements. When it comes to making disciples charisms really matter. We are not interchangeable cogs in an ecclesial machine. Being open to these gifts of the Holy Spirit, discerning them, and then exercising them for the sake of others are critical acts of obedience. God gives each of us particular charisms, so it really does matter that it is *you* and not someone else whom God has placed with *this* person."



Taken from 'Forming Intentional Disciples' by Sherry Weddell (Page 229)

Charisms of the Holy Spirit

ADMINISTRATION empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's wisdom by providing the planning and coordination needed to accomplish good things.

CELIBACY empowers a Christian to be most fulfilled and spiritually fruitful by remaining unmarried and celibate for the sake of Christ.

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.

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.

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.

FAITH empowers a Christian to be an effect 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.

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

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.

HELPS empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's goodness by 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.

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.

KNOWLEDGE empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's truth diligent study and intellectual activity that enables us to better understand God, ourselves, and the universe.

LEADERSHIP empowers a Christian to be an agent of God's purposes by 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.

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.

MISSIONARY empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's goodness to others by effectively and joyfully using their charisms in a second culture.

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.

PASTORING empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's love and build Christian community by nurturing the relationships and long-term spiritual growth of a group.

PROPHECY empowers a Christian to be a channel of divine truth and wisdom by communicating a word or call to individuals or a group through words or actions.

SERVICE empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's purposes by recognising the logistical gaps or unmet needs that can prevent good things from happening, and by personally doing whatever it takes to solve the problem and meet the need.

TEACHING empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's truth and wisdom by enabling others to learn information and skills that help them reach their fullest spiritual and personal potential.

VOLUNTARY POVERTY empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's loving presence by living a life of cheerful, voluntary simplicity or poverty to identify with Jesus and the poor.

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.

WRITING empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's creativity by using words to create works of truth and beauty that reflect the fullness of human experience and bring glory to God.

Discerning and using your Charisms

1. Attend a **Formation Day** on Charisms and the role of Spiritual gifts in the Church.
2. Complete a **Spiritual Gifts Inventory** to give you an idea of your Spiritual gifts.
3. Form **small groups** in your parish for each Charism. Discuss ways you can work together.
4. Attend the various **Charism** days.
5. Put your **Charisms** into action in the parish.

Key points to remember

- ✓ Spiritual Gifts/Charisms are given by God to individuals for his service to lead others into a genuine encounter with Christ.
- ✓ Charisms work alongside natural gifts and talents.
- ✓ Not everyone can do everything. No one on their own is the Body of Christ, we need to work together.



**“Mission is based not on human abilities
but on the power of the risen Lord”**
Pope Saint John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio 23