

To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Charisms 1 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

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CHARISMS

Gifts from God to Us in Service to Others

- I. Introduction to the Series: Explore how we use the offices of priest, prophet, and royalty received in our baptism:
 - A. Identification of our charisms (Part I)
 - B. Discernment of how the Lord calls us to use our charisms (Part II)
 - C. Activation of our charisms on behalf of others (Parts III & IV)
- II. What is a charism?
 - A. Discussion/Reflection: How would you define the word “charism” today? In other words, as you understand it, what is a charism?
 - B. Charism, as used in the New Testament, means "favor" or "gratuitous gift."
 - C. Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to Christians by the Holy Spirit to enable us to be channels of God's love and redeeming presence in the world.
 - D. Charisms are supernaturally empowering, enabling the recipient of the charism to have an effectiveness that surpasses one's natural, human abilities
 1. Example: Doctor with charism of healing finds his patients get well in extraordinary ways (e.g., recovering more quickly than would normally be expected, or getting well when natural healing would not have occurred at all) -from Charisms by Catherine of Siena Institute, 2017
 - E. They emerge from one's relationship with the Lord (although God can bestow them on the unbaptized who want to be God's instrument in the world)
- III. Nine Characteristics of Charisms:
 - A. Charisms are always for the benefit of others and not ourselves
 - B. Charisms are not inherited from parents but given to people by the Holy Spirit at Baptism
 - C. Expression of charisms do not require the giver to be a saint
 - D. Charisms wither if used for purposes that are not of God
 - E. Charisms may be permanent or temporary
 - F. Charisms may emerge suddenly or gradually
 - G. Charisms are grace-given and are received as potentialities that must be accepted and formed into capacities, skills, and competencies (Cahalan, 36)
 - H. Charisms require personal awareness, discernment, and acceptance if they are to develop (Cahalan, 36)
 - I. Charisms require communal recognition and support, especially in regard to formation and education in both knowledge and ability (Cahalan, 37)

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- J. Discussion/Reflection: Identify something that was new information for you about charisms. How might that new information help you in identifying, accepting, and using a charism you have?

IV. St. Paul's List of Charisms:

- A. **Romans 12:6-8:** We have gifts that differ according to the favor bestowed on each of us. One's gifts may be prophecy; its use should be in proportion to his or her faith. It may be the gift of ministry; it should be used for service. One who is a teacher should use this gift for teaching; one with the power of exhortation should exhort. One who gives alms should do so generously; one who rules should exercise this authority with care; one who performs works of mercy should do so cheerfully.
- B. **I Corinthians 12:8-11:** To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one the Spirit gives wisdom in discourse, to another the power to express knowledge. . . . By the same Spirit another is given the gift of healing, and still another miraculous powers. Prophecy is given to one; to another power to distinguish one spirit from another. One receives the gift of tongues, another that of interpreting the tongues. But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts.
- C. **Ephesians 4:7, 11-13:** Each of us has received God's favor in the measure in which Christ bestows it. . . . It is Christ who gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in roles of service for the faithful to build up the body of Christ, till we become one in faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, and form that perfect person who is Christ come to full stature.

V. Types of Charisms (Source: Sherry Weddell, St. Catherine of Siena Institute)

A. Pastoral:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Encouragement | 4. Mercy |
| 2. Helps | 5. Pastoring |
| 3. Hospitality | |

B. Communications:

1. Evangelism
2. Prophecy
3. Teaching

C. Organizational:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. Administration | 3. Giving |
| 2. Leadership | 4. Service |

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D. Lifestyle:

1. Celibacy
2. Faith
3. Missionary
4. Voluntary Poverty

E. Healing:

1. Healing
2. Intercessory Prayer

F. Understanding:

1. Knowledge
2. Wisdom

G. Creative:

1. Craftsmanship
2. Music
3. Writing

H. Ordinary Charisms:

1. Administration
2. Hospitality
3. Mercy

I. Extraordinary Charisms:

1. Prophecy
2. Healing
3. Discernment of Spirits

J. Discussion/Reflection: Based on the list provided by Sherry Weddell, what might be one of your charisms?

VI. Bibliography/Credits:

- A. Catherine of Siena Institute. *Charisms*. <https://siena.org/>
- B. Kathleen Cahalan. *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2010.
- C. Sherry Weddell. *Fruitful Discipleship*. Huntington, IND: Our Sunday Visitor Press, 2017.