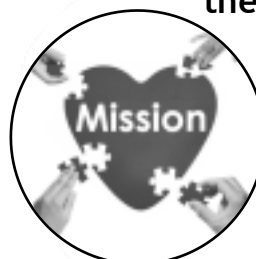


Discerning Charisms

A clue to answering God's Call
Changing your life and changing the World

What is the mission of the Church?



To preach the Good news to all nations

Matthew 29:18

What is the mission of the laity?

- The laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth

• *Lumen Gentium n.33*



Go out and evangelise
... or buy moth balls

Pope Francis

What is MY mission as a lay Catholic?

- Where is God calling me?
- God has a plan for your life
- Where is the road map?
- How and where do I learn to discern that call?



Baptism & Confirmation

- In baptism and Confirmation we receive:
 - Sanctifying grace (for us to keep)
 - Charisms (for us to give away)
 - Supernatural gifts supernatural results



Caroline Chisholm

Faith: Capacity and Choice

- *Virtus fidei* - the “virtue of faith” - the power or capacity to believe given to us in baptism, but *not* the act of faith.
- *Actus fidei* - the “act of faith”: the *explicit, personal, free choice* to respond to God’s grace with belief and discipleship.
- “It is that personal act of faith ... that transforms the human being from one who can be a believer to one who is a believer.”
 - (Lawler, *Marriage and the Catholic Church*, 54 - 55.)

How do we meet Jesus?



- Trust - bridge
- Curiosity
- Conversion -the "Great Jesus Story"
- Prayer
- Scriptures
- Relationship with Jesus

Complaining about a silent God while your Bible is closed, is like complaining about not getting texts when your phone is turned off.

How do we help others meet Jesus?

- Discovering our Vocation
 - There is no crisis of vocations
- Sharing our story
 - 'He who must not be named'
- Using our gifts (charisms) to bring God's grace into our lives and the lives of others

- "Knowing Jesus is the best gift that any person can receive; that we have encountered Him is the best thing that has happened in our lives, and making him known by our word and deeds is our joy."

• (Concluding Document, Fifth General Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Bishops, 1.2, 29)

Receiving the Gifts



- In Baptism & Confirmation We are Called and Gifted
- We need to be open to discern our Call and Gifts
- God created us without us but he will not save us without us (St Augustine)
- Co-operation with God's Grace

Thresholds of Conversion

- Focus: *Lived relationship with God*, whether baptized or unbaptized, churched or unchurched.

1. Initial Trust

2. Spiritual curiosity

3. Spiritual openness

4. Spiritual seeking

5. Intentional discipleship (5% of "active"?)

- (Adapted from *Five Thresholds of Post-Modern Conversion*, Doug Schaupp, 1998)



Discerning and using our charisms

Building up the Body of Christ
Being the channel of God's Providence and Love

Charism:

Discerning

- Our charisms
- Is it a charism?
 - How does it feel
 - Effective?
 - Affirmation
- Our personal 'evangelising' style

Discovering

- How we make the Love of Jesus present to our neighbour
- Growth in faith and effectiveness



Administration

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



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.



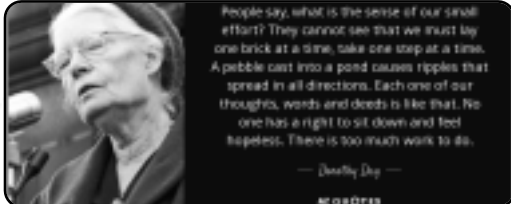
Wisdom

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Mondragon corporation

“If there is to be an economic revolution it must be moral.
If there is to be a moral revolution it must be economic”



Mercy

empowers a Christian to be a channel of Gods love— through practical deeds of compassion that relieve the distress of those who suffer and help them experience God’ s love.



Teaching

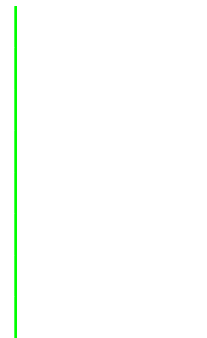
empowers a Christian to be a channel of Gods truth and wisdom - enabling others to learn information and skills that help them reach their fullest spiritual and personal potential.



Helps

empowers a Christian to be a channel of Gods goodness— using his or her talents and charisms to enable other individuals to serve God and people more effectively.

24 Common Charisms



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.

How Charisms Change Your Life

Your charisms are a major indication of God's call in your life.

If you are gifted, you are called.

If you are called, you will be gifted.

How Charisms Change Your Life

Knowing our gifts enables us to *avoid*

- ineffectiveness and frustration
- setting ourselves up to fail
- burn out

Knowing our charisms makes it easier to

- make decisions
- avoid judging others
- reduce conflicts

Your Charisms Change the World

- A primary means through which God's provision will *reach* your neighbor.
- A primary means through which Christ will be *revealed* to your neighbor.

When I run I feel His pleasure

Eric Liddell

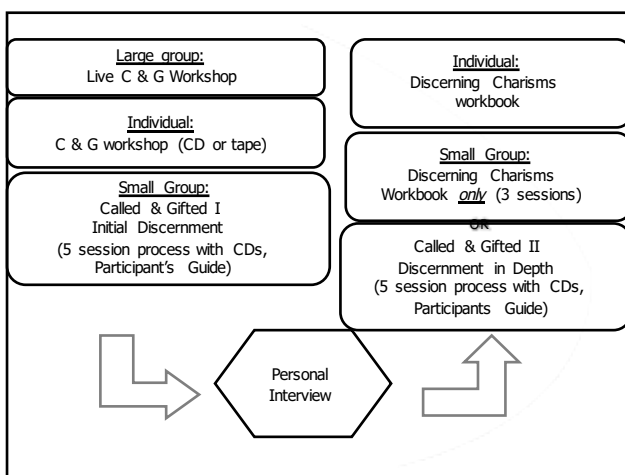
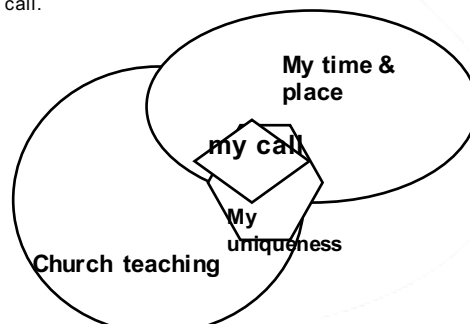


And I feel that pleasure when I act and it's going well, particularly onstage . . . Before I go onstage every night, I pause and dedicate the performance to God, in the sense of 'allow me to surrender' . . . When you allow yourself to surrender... there is nothing like it on the planet. It's the moment people experience when they fall in love, which is equally frightening and exciting. That's what it feels like."

Hugh Jackman

Where is God Calling Me?

Where my "clues" converge is the general arena of my call.



Catherine of Siena:



Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire

