



Office of
Missionary Discipleship

Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

CALLED BY THE
Spirit 

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them
the fire of your love.

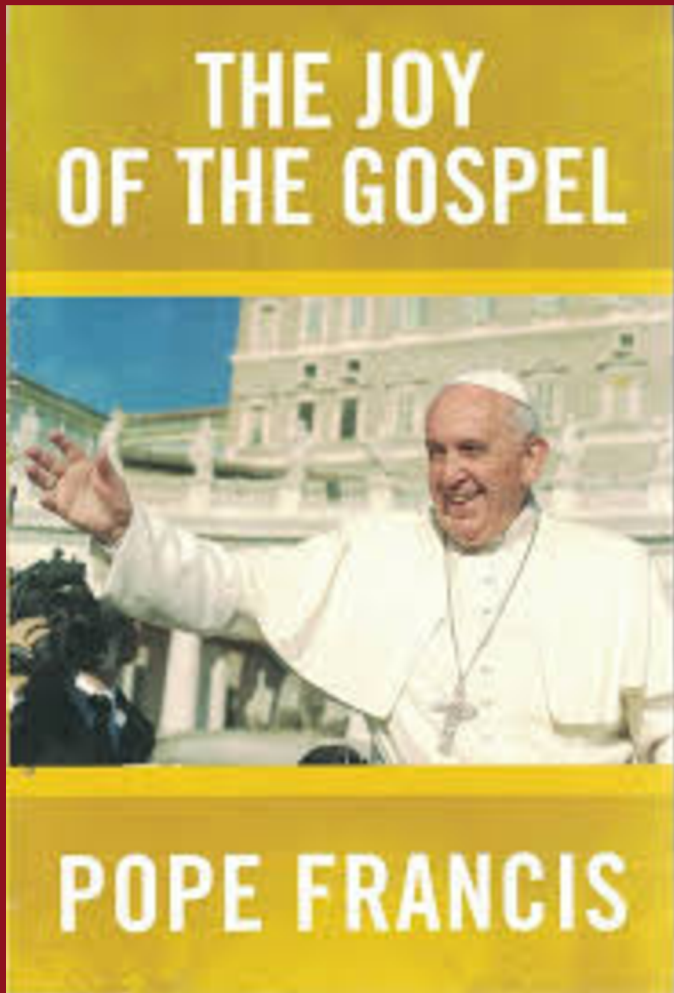
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



Called By The Spirit



*Evangelii Gaudium -
The Joy of the Gospel*
A Church which
goes forth...

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Missionary Disciples

A missionary disciple is a person who knows and loves God and has a personal relationship with Jesus, who is inspired by the Holy Spirit to love others and seeks to share that love and inspiration with every person through action and word.



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Experiencing Joy

Goodness always tends to spread. Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us...as it expands, goodness takes root and develops.

Pope Francis has offered us these words, “If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek the good” (EG, 9).



Where does our JOY come from?

- As Missionary Disciples, we are called, by virtue of our Baptism, to go out and **share the good news of the Gospel** message with great joy!
- **Our JOY** comes from a personal relationship with **Jesus Christ!**



What is the Good News?

1. **LOVE CREATES:** We are created in God's image and likeness: made in love, by love, to share love
2. **SIN BREAKS:** Sin severs the relationships we share and distorts truth leaving us restlessly wandering in illusion and fractured... humanity needs saved!
3. **Jesus Christ REDEEMS and RENEWS:** Jesus Christ redeems mankind and calls us back to a loving relationship with him and the Father through the Holy Spirit – He lovingly pulls us from the muck of sin!
4. **WE RETURN TO LOVE:** Renewed as Christians, we change our ways to better align with who God is calling us to be. We are called to NEW LIFE with God and relationship with Jesus Christ...and as missionary disciples, we must passionately and joyfully share this news with those longing to hear!!!!

Our JOY pours from this good news!



What is a Charism?

- The definition of charism is a spiritual gift or grace given by God to each at Baptism and strengthened by the Sacraments.
- Each person has at least one, some have more.
- Charisms are used to serve God and are used for others
- Charisms may have natural and supernatural characteristics, for the giver and the receiver.



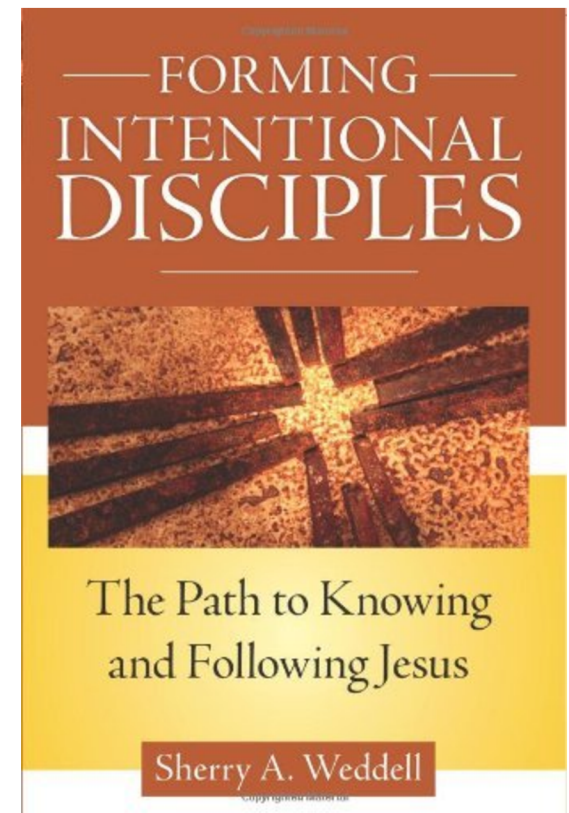
The Joy of the Gospel

They (charisms) are not an inheritance, safely secured and entrusted to a small group for safekeeping; rather they are gifts of the Spirit integrated into the body of the Church, drawn to the center which is Christ and then channeled into an evangelizing impulse. - (*Joy of the Gospel*, 130)



The Joy of the Gospel

A sure sign of the authenticity of a charism is its ecclesial character, its ability to be integrated harmoniously into the life of God's holy and faithful people for the good of all.
(Joy of the Gospel, 130)



Charisms and the Sacraments



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Recognizing Charisms

Yearning: I am naturally drawn to...

Rapid Learning: I pick up these kinds of activities quickly...

"Flow": I feel “in the zone” when doing these things...time just flies by...

Glimpses of Excellence: I sometimes wonder, "How did I do that?" when I...

Satisfaction: In some activities I never seem to tire, and am anxious to do them again.



Called By The Spirit Vision

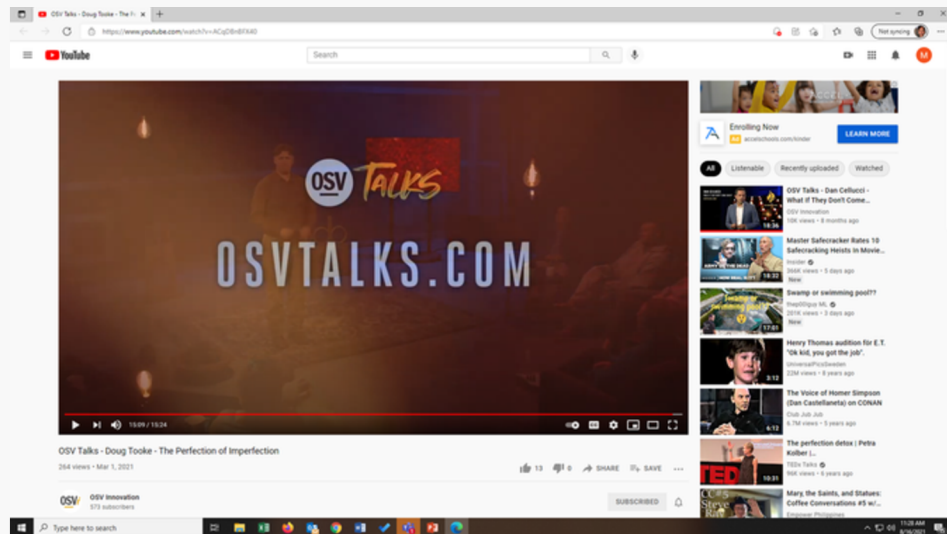
“Imagine a parish community where all of the laity have discovered and are using their spiritual gifts and direct them authentically to the heart of the Gospel. We might find that we will have parish communities guided by the Holy Spirit, living in communion, to be



Doug Tooke – OSV Talks

“The Perfection of Imperfection: An Honest look at the human condition of messiness in light of the exquisite plan of a perfect God”

- OSVI Talk:
- Click: [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AC2pD-8T5AD)



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Table Discussion Questions

- As imperfect missionary disciples, called by the Holy Spirit, we must embrace the perfect will of God. How do you understand this in your life?
- “Holiness is letting grace and mercy flow through us...” When have you encountered this in your life? Can you share a story?
- Orthopraxy is “right doing” or “right living”. Why is this important as we consider our gifts?
- “The perfect God moves through the imperfect us.” How does this influence your understanding of your gifts?



Discernment of Charisms

A prayerful process to be used to discover more deeply the spiritual gifts one has received, so in turn they can be offered in service to God, in love to all those we encounter; home, work, school, community, and church.



Called by the Spirit Discernment Cycle

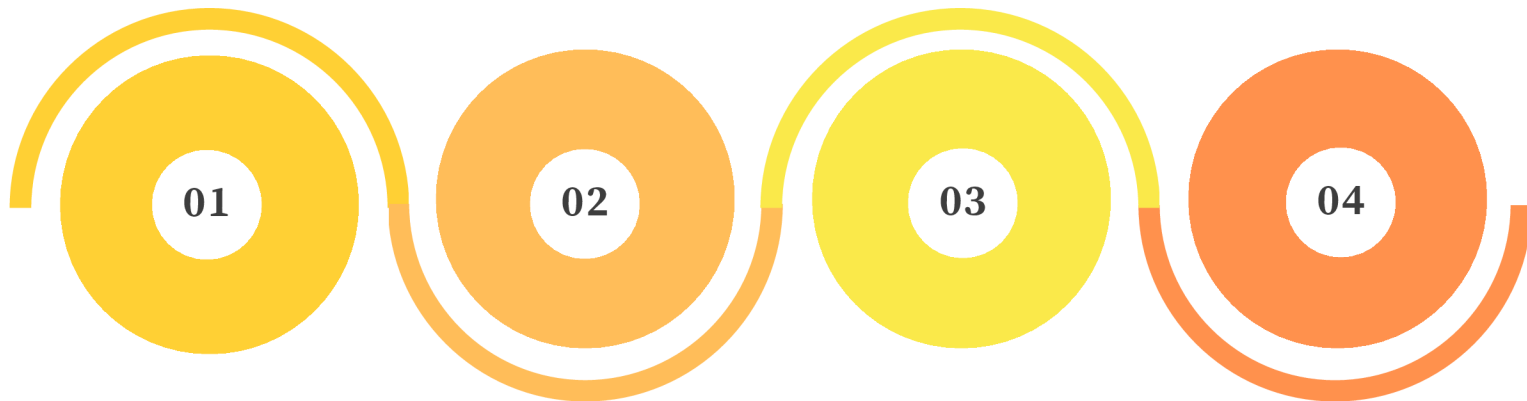
RECOGNIZING AND STIRRING UP YOUR GIFTS

Step 2

Gifts Inventory with prayerful
guidance through the Holy Spirit

Step 4

Missionary action using our gifts
to build God's kingdom



Step 1

Intentional prayer,
contemplation, active listening
and sacred surrender

Step 3

Process of accompaniment,
discipling and focused group
reflection



The *Called By The Spirit* Discernment Cycle

1. A period of intentional prayer, contemplation, active listening, and sacred surrender

BEFORE taking the Gifts Inventory, participants should:

- Spend some focused time in prayer, meditating on Scripture (Psalms 51, 67, 84, 101, 111)
- Focus on de-cluttering the mind and heart to encounter and listen to the Holy Spirit
- Allow the Holy Spirit to take control (“I’m Yours”)
- Find a prayer/discernment partner (if you know someone else going through this process, offer to pray with and for them)



The *Called By The Spirit* Discernment Cycle

1. A Gifts Inventory with prayerful guidance through the Holy Spirit

- As you prepare to take the *Called By The Spirit Gifts Inventory*, allow a few minutes to listen and pray that you be inspired by the Holy Spirit in your responses.
- Complete the inventory by indicating the first choice that comes to mind.



The *Called By The Spirit* Discernment Cycle

1. An process of accompaniment, discipling and focused small group reflection

- Connect regularly with a prayer partner and share input and feedback from the discernment process. Hold each other accountable and pray together.
- Seek out further spiritual direction and mentoring from someone trained to accompany others in a process of discernment. This may be a member of the clergy, a certified spiritual director or a parish mentor. Consult with your pastor to connect with someone.
- Use the *Called By The Spirit 4-Week Journal The Gospel of Mark Book* to facilitate personal reflection and small group conversation



The *Called By The Spirit* Discernment Cycle

1. Missionary Action (using our gifts to build God's kingdom)

- Work with a volunteer coordinator or member of your community to learn how you can use your gifts to serve others. Contact a parish associate for help with connecting.
- As you use your gifts, continue to pray and actively listen as you deepen your commitment and continue to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life. Discernment is an interior process that you should return to regularly in prayer.



Discernment:

A daily commitment to Christ

- **Discernment** leads us to freely align with God's heart and will
 - This is where we find fulfillment
 - Collaboration with grace
- **Discernment** is a continual process of seeking, discovery and awareness that involves intentional and focused listening with the heart
- **Discernment** places us in the disquieting presence of God and the ennobling sacredness of the other



Discernment:

A daily commitment to Christ

- **Discernment** requires a confrontation with the illusions that sometimes easily possess us
- **Discernment** requires an intentional sacred silence and encounter – we place ourselves in the presence of the Holy Spirit
- **Discernment** is a form of worship that must lead to action – involves a sacred surrender!
- **As Missionary Disciples**, discernment must continually be part of our daily regimen



Celebrate What's Right With the World

Dewitt Jones

Photographer for the National Geographic

TEDxSouthLakeTahoe

Click: [HERE](#)



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Table Discussion Questions

1. What was one of your favorite quotes, message, or images in the video? Why?
2. What is Dewitt Jones telling us we need to do with our gifts and why?
3. “Put on the lens of celebration!” How can you do that more in your life?
4. Who is someone that inspires you to celebrate what’s right in the world? How is their passion contagious?



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Gifts Inventory



1. Before you begin the inventory, take some time to quiet your heart and pray to the Holy Spirit to guide you in this process
2. Read each prompt and offer a rating that most accurately describes you. There is no right or wrong response. Be honest and respond quickly with your first reaction.
3. Circle the number next to each prompt that corresponds to your answer:
 - “4” if the statement is almost always true
 - “3” if the statement is more true than false
 - “2” if the statement is more false than true
 - “1” if the statement is false.
4. After responding to each prompt, tally your marks on the calculation rubric. Add the ranking numbers in each row to determine your total score for each gift.
5. Record your top 5 scored gifts from the “Total Column” identically on both enclosed *Top Charism Cards*.





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“Every good tree bears good fruit. By their fruits you will know them.”

Matthew 7: 17, 20



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Categories of Gifts

- Roots
- Branches
- Leaves
- Water



Gifts as *ROOTS*

Ground and structure individuals and communities

Gifts:

- **Administration**
- **Giving**
- **Leadership**
- **Service**
- **Discernment**
- **Shepherding**

Those whose gifts are like the roots of the tree help ground and structure a community. They focus on organizing people to accomplish a task. Without the grounded roots, the entire tree could be in jeopardy. Similarly, without the gifts of those in this category, those with other gifts could not flourish.



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- Secretary
- Stewardship
- Philanthropy
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant
- Finance Professional
- Manager
- Customer Service
- Coaching
- Charity
- Leadership Development
- Strategic Management
- Business Administration
- Volunteering
- Non-Profit work
- Counseling
- Mentoring
- Habitat for Humanity
- Teaching

A Few Lived Examples



Gifts as *BRANCHES*

Focuses on reaching **out** to reveal God and the Good News

Gifts:

- Digital Media
- Evangelism
- Prophecy
- Teaching
- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Hospitality

Those whose gifts are like branches that stretch out from the tree base reach out and extend to reveal God and the good news of the Gospel to a world longing to hear it. They seek opportunities to share the good news far and wide. The branches can reach quite a distance out, but always stay connected to the base of the tree. The base of the tree, like Christ, is the source of life. Detached, the branches wither and die. The message of the Good News always extends from the person of Jesus.



- Teachers/Professors
- Social Media
- Communications
- Adult Education/Formation
- Religious Education
- Research Analysts
- Lawyers & Judges
- Historian
- Scientists
- Counselors
- Child Care Workers
- Service Workers
- Parenting
- Hotel Management
- Office Management
- Restaurant
- Event Planning
- Waiter/Waitress
- Volunteering

A Few Lived Examples



Gifts as LEAVES

Models a way of life that energizes and reveals the face of God

Gifts:

- Global and Cultural Engagement
- Peacemaking
- Voluntary Poverty
- Faith
- Craftsmanship
- Musicianship
- Writing

Those whose gifts are like the leaves on a tree model a way of life that energizes and reveals the face of God and encourages the faithful to cling tightly to Christ when the counter-cultural winds blow through. Just as various leaves help identify the variety of tree, those with these gifts give a face to Christ in the world through their witness and example.



- Actor/Drama Coach
- Woodworker
- Icon writer
- Instrumental Musician
- Vocal Musician
- Choir
- Bible Study
- Author
- Technology Committee
- Artists
- Formation
- Architect
- Interior Designer
- Editor
- Landscaper
- Advocacy
- Construction Work
- Service Immersion
- Volunteer Corps
- Carpenter
- Religious Life
- Mediator
- Public Relations

A Few Lived Examples



Gifts as *WATER*

Shares God's compassion, love and healing in

Gifts

- Healing
- Intercession
- Mercy
- Helping
- Encouragement

Those whose gifts are like the water that hydrates the tree shower down God's compassion, love and healing in times of brokenness. They provide help, comfort, assurance and warmth in times of challenge and need. They help restore and renew.



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- Nurse
- Doctor
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Counselor
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Medical Technician
- Prayer Chains
- Clergy
- Service Immersion
- Childcare
- Teaching
- Prison Ministry/Outreach
- Justice Advocacy
- Spiritual Direction/Mentoring
- Healing Prayer Teams
- Letter-writing
- Mediator

A Few Lived Examples



St. André Bessette

A Man Called By The Spirit



<https://youtu.be/ZVFPYmp1h3M?si=3YiMIBRrK7dt3Vxm>

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Porters of the Faith

AT the Threshold

- What gifts do you recognize in St. André and how did he use those gifts to serve others and God?
- What do you connect with most as you hear the story of St. André and why?
- St. André met people at the threshold with great joy and love. What are the thresholds in your life where you bring others to an encounter of Christ by using your gifts?
- A porter is someone who lovingly and joyfully accompanies a weary sojourner across a threshold. How do you understand the phrase, “Porter of the Faith”? How can you be a “Porter of the Faith” by using your gifts?



Storytelling... Sharing and Affirming

- Think of a moment in your life when:
 - You used your gifts to serve God or others;
 - You found that activity meaningful;
 - You felt nurtured and impassioned to continue to make a difference.

Jot some brief notes down about your experience.

We will ask you to briefly share your story (in 2-3 minutes) with those at your table. Following your story, those at the table will share with you how they heard and witnessed you *living* your gifts as you shared about your experience.



Large Group Sharing

- What did it feel like to tell your story?
- What did it feel like to hear feedback from others?
- What did it feel like to give someone feedback?

Next Steps



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Called By The Spirit 4-Week Gospel of Mark Journal Book



Support

ALL materials and resources are available from the Office of Missionary Discipleship Called By The Spirit landing page at:

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/parish-life/missionary-discipleship/called-by-the-spirit-gifts-discernment-program>

Contact: Christy Cabaniss, Director

Office of Missionary Discipleship

216-696-6525 x2552 | ccabaniss@dioceseofcleveland.org

Questions?

Retreat Evaluation

Closing Prayer:

Prayer for the New Evangelization
from the USCCB



THANK YOU!

