

What Gifts has God Given you?

As stewards, God has given us many diverse gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God. Some are natural gifts while others are spiritual gifts.

Natural Gifts

God-given natural gifts include our time, talent and treasure. These concepts are easy to understand. God gives us only a certain amount of time in this world, a talent can help make certain things easier for us to learn, and the amount of treasure we have is reflected in our bank account. Some natural gifts can be inherited from our parents, such as our talents, for example.

Spiritual Gifts

All Catholics, as baptised Christians, have been given supernatural gifts. These gifts of the Holy Spirit are hidden in the sacraments we receive and cannot be seen, touched, or measured, but they are there. Examples of some of these invisible gifts include the gift of faith, hope, and charity (or love). Other invisible gifts we receive are our charisms.

Your Parish Needs Your God-given Gifts

As stewards, God has given us many diverse gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Joy in life comes from using our God-given gifts creatively and fruitfully, for the glory of God and in the service of our neighbor.

Consider sharing your God-given gifts with your parish community by joining a parish ministry that speaks to your heart.

Contact your parish office to learn more about the opportunities currently available.



What Gifts Has God Given You?



Open to learn more
about charisms



Volunteer Today!



Archdiocese
of Toronto



“We are gifted in certain ways and sometimes we don’t even realize it. Perhaps this is an occasion, an opportunity, to ask, ‘How am I gifted?’”

– ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO



To learn more about your God-given gifts, scan this QR Code then scroll down the page to watch a homily by His Grace, Archbishop Francis Leo or visit: www.archtoronto.org/stewardship and click on the Charisms tab.

What are Charisms?

Charisms are special graces given by God to all Christians, enabling us to accomplish things for God beyond our natural abilities. The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes charisms as “special gifts of the Holy Spirit which are bestowed on individuals for the good of others, the needs of the world, and in particular for the building up of the Church.” (160) These gifts, whether extraordinary or humble, are meant to be shared. Using a charism is a joyful, energizing experience because it allows us to serve as instruments of God, helping others encounter our Lord.

As a baptized member of the faithful, you have received a charism!

Examples of Charisms

As Archbishop Leo preached in a Stewardship Sunday homily, “There is no exhaustive list of charisms, even if St. Paul mentions a few in his letters. However, they are real, numerous and tailor-made for the service we are called to accomplish in Jesus’ Name...They range from the gift of tongues to prophecy, from Christian marriage to healing and miracles, from hospitality and service to discernment and administration, to name just a few.”

Other possibilities of charisms can include craftsmanship, encouragement, missionary zeal, sensitivity (to the spiritual needs of others), teaching, wisdom, etc.

How Can I Discover My Charism?

Pray about it. Then, consider sharing this brochure with a loved one or good friend and ask what they think your charism could be (people who know us well frequently recognize qualities in us that we don’t). Then do the same for them (have fun with it!) Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Working out of a charism is energizing. For example, someone with the charism of intercessory prayer might lose track of time while praying intensely for others and often sees their prayers answered.
2. People may frequently seek out your charism. A person with the charism of counsel might find others, even strangers, approaching them to discuss their problems, drawn by an ease in bringing faith into conversations.
3. Charisms are known by their fruits. The results of using a charism are always good, free of undue struggle, and brings others closer to God. Unlike natural talents, charisms cannot be used for evil purposes.
4. Try experimenting. Once you identified what your charism could be, try consciously using it. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into situations where you can share it with others for the glory of God.
5. And finally (but most importantly) deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ by frequenting the Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, daily prayer, reading scripture or a good spiritual book, and so on. As your faith deepens, this will help you to be more open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.