

Inventory of Catholic Gifts/Charism

(Source – Sherry Weddell, Catherine of Siena Institute)

Spiritual Gift	Description	Expressed As/In	Church Examples
<i>Pastoral Charisms</i>			
Charism of Encouragement	<p>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</p> <p>Acts 4:36; 14:19-22 Rom. 12:8 1 Thess. 2:11-12 Heb. 3:13, 10:24 CCC: 1749-1845; 2447</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • counseling or mentoring • parenthood • small group facilitator • prayer team or grief ministry • Eucharistic minister to the sick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Barnabas • St. Francis De Sales • Caryll Houselander
Charism of Helps	<p>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</p> <p>Ex. 18:13-27 Mark 15:40-41 1 Cor. 12:28 1 Peter 4:10-11 CCC: 907; 910; 1143</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteer or mentor • parenting • teacher • spiritual director • pastoral staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Paula • Brother Leo • St. Anne Line
Charism of Hospitality	<p>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</p> <p>Gen. 18:1-8 II Kings 4:8-17 Matt. 25:34-45 Luke 17:19-31 Gal. 4:14 CCC: 1832; 2446-2449; 2463</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hospitality (home, community, parish) • receptionist • small Christian communities • work with homeless/poor • RCIA/Returning Catholics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Benedict • St. Margaret Clitherow • Dorothy Day
Charism of Mercy	<p>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</p> <p>Sirach 38:1-15 Is. 58:5-10 Matt. 20:29-34; 25:34-45 Luke 10:30-37 CCC: 864; 899; 1822-1829; 2437-2463</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical profession • social work or counseling • prison ministry or social justice ministry • lay missionary • Eucharistic minister to the sick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessed Teresa of Calcutta • Blessed Damien of Molokai • St. Joseph Moscati • St. Francis of Assisi

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Charism of Pastoring	<p>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</p> <p>Ez. 34:1-16 John 10:1-16 Eph. 4:11-16 CCC: 910-911; 1546-1548; 1558-1560; 1585-1586</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priesthood • religious sister or brother • lay missionary worker • ministry to single adults • work with the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Charles Borromeo • Blessed Henry the Shoemaker • Blessed Josefa Naval Gerbes
<i>Communication Charisms</i>			
Charism of Evangelism	<p>Empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's love by sharing the faith with other in a way that draws them to become disciples of Jesus and responsible members of his Church</p> <p>Acts 5:27-32, 42; 11:20-21; 14:21 Rom. 10:14, 15 Eph. 4:11-13 II Tim. 4:1-5 CCC: 27-49; 150-166; 425-429; 613-618; 836-856; 1256-1261</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political, social or cultural change agent • religious education • lector • RCIA/Returning Catholics • lay missionary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Catherine of Siena • St. Francis Xavier • Frank Sheed & Maisie Ward
Charism of Prophecy	<p>Empowers a Christian to be a channel of divine truth and wisdom by communicating a word or call of God to individuals or a group through inspired words or actions</p> <p>Luke 3:1-18 Acts 11:37-30; 15:30-35 Eph. 4:11-16 1 Cor. 12:10, 28 CCC: 61; 64; 711-715; 783; 785; 2447</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teaching/preaching • counseling • writing • intercessory prayer or healing ministry • social justice ministry • spiritual direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John the Baptist (NT) • St. Philip Neri • St. John Chrysostom • St. Martin of Tours
Charism of Teaching	<p>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</p> <p>Matt. 28:19-20 Rom. 12:7 1 Cor. 12:28-31 Eph. 4:11-14 CCC: 425-429; 767-768; 785; 888-892</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teacher • tutor or mentor • home-schooling parent • religious education/RCIA/adult faith formation • spiritual director or counselor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Augustine • St. Jerome • St. John Baptist de la Salle • John Paul II

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<i>Organizational Charisms</i>			
Charism of Administration	<p>Empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's wisdom by providing the planning and coordination needed to accomplish good things</p> <p>Gen. 39:2-6; 41:-46-49, 53-57 Acts:6:1-7 Ex. 18:17-23 1 Cor. 12:28 CCC 898-900; 907; 909-911</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • executive or office manager • admin. assistant • homemaker • community or parish organizer • pastoral council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph (OT) • St. Margaret of Scotland • St. Dominic • St. Vincent de Paul
Charism of Giving	<p>Empowers a Christian to be a cheerful channel of God's provision by giving with exceptional generosity to those in need</p> <p>Malachi 3:10 Matt. 25:34-45 Mark 12:41-44 Acts 4:34-36; 11:28-30 Gal. 5:22-23 CCC: 1434; 1438; 1832; 1969; 2437-2463</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fund-raising • philanthropist • work for charity organization • hospitality • social/economic justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Katherine Drexel • Blessed Bartolo Longo • Margaret Haughery
Charism of Leadership	<p>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</p> <p>1 Sam. 10:1 II Chronicles 1:7-12 Neh. 2:17-18 Acts 1:5-26 CCC: 763-771; 874-896; 1778-1885; 1897-1948</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneur, innovator • teaching/preaching • leader of community activities • head of organization/ group/business • small group leader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Ignatius of Loyola • St. Teresa of Avila • St. Maximillian Kolbe
Charism of Service	<p>Empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's purposes by recognizing 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</p> <p>Luke 22:24-27 John 13:3-5, 12-17 Rom. 12:7 CCC: 601; 713; 786; 898-899; 909-911; 1937; 2447</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteer • handyman • homemaker • pastoral and support staff • social ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martha (NT) • St. John Bosco • Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

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<i>Healing Charisms</i>			
Charism of Healing	<p>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</p> <p>II Kings 5:9-16 Sirach 38:1-15 Tobit 11:1-19 Luke 9:1-6 Acts 3:1-10 CCC: 547-549; 1499-1523</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical professional • counseling • caregiver • intercessory prayer or healing ministry • spiritual director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Francis Xavier • St. Julie Billiart • St. Martin de Porres
Charism of Intercessory Prayer	<p>Empowers the intense prayer of a Christian for others to be the means by which God's love and deliverance reaches those in need</p> <p>Gen. 18:20-32 II Cor. 1:8-11 Col. 4:12-13 James 5:14-16 CCC: 968-970; 2626-2649; 2850-2865</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • counseling • intercessory prayer • healing ministry • prayer group • RCIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Dominic • Carmelites • St. Thérèse of Lisieux
<i>Charisms of Understanding</i>			
Charism of Discernment of Spirits	<p>Empowers a Christian to be an effective channel of God's wisdom by accurately perceiving a divine or demonic presence in certain people places or things</p> <p>Matt. 16:21-23 Acts 16:16-18 1 Cor. 12:10 CCC: 391-393; 397-398; 407-411; 1082-1083; 1237</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • counseling • leadership • healing ministry • intercessory prayer • spiritual director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John of the Cross
Charism of Knowledge	<p>Empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's truth through diligent study and intellectual activity that enables us to better understand God, ourselves, and the universe</p> <p>Proverbs 2:1-11 Wisdom 7:16-22 Col. 2:2-3 II Cor. 11:6 CCC: 31-49; 84-133; 156-171; 1949-1986</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teaching • technology and science • writing • home schooling • religious education, RCIA, adult faith formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Thomas Aquinas • St. Thomas More • Venerable John Henry Newman • St. Edith Stein

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Charism of Wisdom	<p>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</p> <p>1 Kings 3:5-12 Wisdom Ch. 7 – 10 James 1:5, 6 CCC: 215-217; 1749-1756; 1776-1802; 1805-1806</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leadership • manager, administrator • pastor or pastoral staff • pastoral council • small group facilitator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John of the Cross • St. Nicholas of Flue • Caroline Chisholm
<i>Lifestyle Charisms</i>			
Charism of Celibacy	<p>Empowers a Christian to be most fulfilled and spiritually fruitful by remaining unmarried and celibate for the sake of Christ</p> <p>Matt. 19:11-12 1 Cor. 7:7-9, 32-24 CCC 915-916; 922-924; 1579-1580, 2337-2359</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • priesthood • religious sister or brother • lay missionary worker • ministry to single adults • work with the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Isabella of France • St. Philip Neri • Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
Charism of Faith	<p>Empowers a Christian to be an effective 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</p> <p>Luke 7:1-10; 17:5-6 Acts 27:21-25 Rom. 4:18-21 Heb. 11 CCC: 144-184; 222-227; 814-1816</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entrepreneur, innovator, founder • parenting • fund-raising • intercessory prayer • healing ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Teresa of Avila • St. Frances Xavier Cabrini • St. Maximillian Kolbe
Charism of Missionary	<p>Empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's goodness to others by effectively and joyfully using their charisms in a second culture</p> <p>Matt. 28:16-20 Acts 8:4, 5, 26-39; 9:10-19; 14:26-28 CCC: 763-768; 774-782; 836-856; 1275-1284</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teaching • preaching/evangelism • peacemaker • social justice • lay missionary worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Francis Xavier • St. Frances Xavier Cabrini • Venerable Edel Quinn

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<p>Charism of Voluntary Poverty</p>	<p>Empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's loving presence by living a life of cheerful, voluntary simplicity or poverty in order to identify with Jesus and the poor</p> <p>Matt. 5:3; 6:19-33 Luke 9:57-58 II Cor. 6:10; 8:9 CCC: 915; 928-929; 1973-1974; 2443-2463</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief and development worker • religious sister or brother • lay missionary • social justice ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Francis of Assisi • St. Clare of Assisi • Blessed Teresa of Calcutta
<i>Creative Charisms</i>			
<p>Charism of Craftsmanship</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Ex. 28:2-5; 31:1-11 Sirach 38:27-34 Acts 18:3 CCC: 337-339; 341; 349; 2415; 2427-2428; 2500-2503</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • artist • creative homemaker • handyman • icon painter • making clothes for poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Joseph • St. Bridgit of Ireland • Ade Bethune
<p>Charism of Music</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Ex. 15:1, 2 1 Sam 16:14-23 Ps. 150 James 5:13 CCC: 1136-1144; 1156-1158; 1177; 2500-2503; 2513</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • musician or singer • composer or songwriter • musical therapy or music education • direct musical productions • worship/parish music ministry • choir director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessed Hildegard of Bingen • Giovanni da Palestrina
<p>Charism of Writing</p>	<p>Empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's creativity by using words to create works of truth or beauty that reflect the fullness of human experience and bring glory to God</p> <p>Ps. 45:1 Phil. 3:1 1 Tim. 3:14-15 Jude 3 CCC: 898-900; 904-907; 909; 911; 2464-2513</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • novelist, writer, journalist • poet • teaching/preaching • editor • creator of curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerard Manley Hopkins • G.K. Chesterton • C.S. Lewis • Flannery O'Connor