



Pastoral Ministers' Association Meeting Minutes November 16, 2010 Meeting held at Christ the Redeemer

Introduction

Jen Gerada welcomed everyone at 10:05 AM. She made sure all who had completed the spiritual gifts inventory had filled out a raffle slip, then drew eight names to receive a roll of gift wrap. Judging by a show of hands, almost everyone had completed the inventory.

Jen introduced speaker Sherry Weddell, from the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs. Sherry created the first charism discernment process specifically designed for Catholics. In 1997, she co-founded the Catherine of Siena Institute, an affiliated international ministry of the Western Dominican Province, and currently serves as Co-Director. Sherry has developed numerous unique formation resources that are used around the world and trained and helps lead an international team who has worked directly with over 60,000 ordained, religious, and lay Catholics in more than 100 dioceses on five continents.

Program: Charisms – Your Unique Spiritual Gifts

Sherry began with a prayer reflecting on the mystery of how God enters the world through the assent and cooperation of all of us for the purpose of changing us and the world. After allowing time for scoring the spiritual gifts inventory, she instructed everyone to select their six top scores and find out what charisms they represent. The actual number obtained from the scoring is not important, but rather the relative high scores. In other words, high numbers may reflect personality traits of confidence or optimism that vary between individuals. The highest numbers in any given inventory are a starting point for identifying charisms. Sherry stressed that taking the inventory is not the same as discernment, but can be a way to get started in this process.

Charisms are by definition gifts we are given by God to be used for the benefit of others. They differ from our natural talents and strengths in that these characteristics are for our own benefit. Charisms are instruments of redemption. All baptized people are empowered by God with at least one, and usually more than one charism. One way to think of them is like ungerminated seeds in the ground – containing the elements of life, but waiting for the right time and circumstances to spring forth. Charisms do not usually emerge until called forth and until our faith becomes personal. They provide clues to our personal vocations and are tools given to us to carry out that mission.

Some practical information dealing with parish life and church history and structure was presented. Sherry feels that parishes that incorporate evangelization into their life and fabric have charisms emerge more frequently in their members. When people become engaged and energized in their faith, gifts become realized and acted upon for the good of others. Vatican II defined a vision of the church and laity that said the whole church has responsibility for each member.

Characteristics of a charism:

- Long-term – ways you are used over and over again by God; may be further developed
- Bear results above and beyond our natural abilities
- Focused outward
- Received from God, not chosen by us
- Not natural talents or skills, not effects of the sacraments
- Not genetically linked
- Cannot be turned to evil or used against people
- Provide clues to our personal vocation

The five steps of discernment were reviewed. They are:

1. Explore the possibilities.
2. Experiment and take action to try them on. ("Just do it")
3. Examine your experience. A charism is energizing, satisfying, joyful, feels like a fit, expresses your relationship with God.
4. Evaluate effectiveness, i.e. it does what it's supposed to do.
5. Expect feedback from others, both direct and indirect.

Sherry stressed throughout her presentation that this material was usually taught in a much longer seminar. She recommended a one-on-one interview with a trained person to go over the spiritual gifts inventory. Mary Martin has completed interviewer training and is willing to conduct interviews with PMA members. Phone interviews are also an option. Participation in a "Called and Gifted" workshop is the best way to pursue this program.

Individual discernment of one's charisms makes life with God "real." This process can be a catalyst for spiritual growth and discipleship, and unleash creativity and initiative. Knowing our own gifts is critical to being fruitful in our work and offers protection from cynicism and burnout. On a larger scale, pastoral planning can expand if different parishes, with different sets of dominant charisms, can work together in complementary ways.

Vicar's Report

Fr. Stan said that the new guidelines for parish councils and parish finance committees were discussed at the last Presbyteral Council meeting. The fifth draft version will be distributed with final approval expected early next year. The Aod Capital Campaign is underway with 21 pilot parishes participating. Fr. Stan met with the pastors of the PAV parishes that support Holy Family Regional School (St. Andrew, Sacred Heart, St. Mary of the Hills, St. Irenaeus, and St. John Fisher). These parishes will conduct their capital campaigns at the same time and include funding for the school in their appeals. This is expected to begin in 2012.

Announcements

- "Sacred Truths About the End of Life" at Christ the Redeemer, 7:00 PM, November 18. Speaker is Peg Nelson, Director of Palliative Care and Pain Services at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland.
- Nancy Isken is trying to raise money to replace the worn out mattresses used by the South Oakland Shelter. Contact Nancy (niskan3@gmail.com) for flyers, donor cards and other materials.

The meeting ended at noon with a closing prayer and lunch.

Future PMA Meetings: (all meetings begin at 10 AM unless otherwise indicated)

January 18, 2011 at St. Irenaeus

February 15,, 2011 at Sacred Heart of the Hills

March 31, 2011 - Spring Assembly at St. Mary of the Hills, 6 PM

May 17, 2011 at St. Damien

Attendance:

Archdiocese of Detroit	Michael Chamberland
Archdiocese of Detroit	Sr. Kathleen Matz
CCRT	Barb Williams
Christ the Redeemer	Lisa Andridge
Christ the Redeemer	Dawn Ceka
Christ the Redeemer	Nancy Clancy
Christ the Redeemer	Fr. Joe Dailey

Christ the Redeemer	Sue Enjaian
Christ the Redeemer	Marilyn Lines
Christ the Redeemer	Lisa Pratt
Christ the Redeemer	Christie Spencer
Christ the Redeemer	Karen Swietlik
Christ the Redeemer	Maryalice Tomei
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Judy Gordon
St. Damien of Molokai	Maria Charria
St. Damien of Molokai	Maria Jimenez
St. Irenaeus	Jennifer Gerada
St. John Fisher	Jan Elbert
St. John Fisher	Nancy Isken
St. Joseph	Debbie Bloomgren
St. Joseph	Lisa Engler
St. Joseph	Suzie Fazzini
St. Joseph	Kathy Galbraith
St. Joseph	Kathy Hasty
St. Joseph	Colleen Heacock
St. Joseph	Mary Martin
St. Joseph	Kimberly Myers
St. Joseph	Fr. Gerald Roman
St. Joseph	Colleen Schultz
St. Joseph	Julie Skelley
St. Joseph	Lisa Stockard
St. Joseph School	Sr. Theresa Darga
St. Joseph School	Jon Myers
St. Mary of the Hills	Peggy Casing
St. Mary of the Hills	Laura Corrion
St. Mary of the Hills	Chris Kozlowski
St. Mary of the Hills	Stan Ulman