

## The Charismatic Gifts (Pentecost, Year C)

### 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13—One Body, One Spirit

<sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus be cursed!” and *no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>4</sup> Now there are *varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit*; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. <sup>7</sup> *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...* <sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.* (1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13)

1. **Faith**: confession of “Jesus is Lord” is “by the Holy Spirit” (12:3)
2. **Charismatic Gifts**: “gifts” (Greek *charisma*) from the Spirit (12:4)
3. **Unity**: brought about in the church by “the same Spirit” (12:4)
4. **Common Good**: for the “common good” or “the better” (Greek *sympheron*) (12:7)
5. **Baptism**: “were baptized into one body” by “one Spirit” (12:13)

### Living Tradition

**Thomas Aquinas**: The “manifestation of the Spirit,” in which is designated the office of *charismatic graces* (Latin *gratiae gratis datae*). But it pertains to *sanctifying grace* (Latin *gratiam gratum facientem*) that through it the Holy Spirit indwells, which, indeed, does not pertain to charismatic graces, but only that through them the Holy Spirit is manifested, as the interior motion of the heart through the voice... *Hence it is said that Stephen, filled with grace, worked prodigies and many signs*, whom they chose filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:8). *In this way such graces are granted to the saints.* And lest such a manifestation seem futile, he adds: “unto profit” (Latin *ad utilitatem*) [1 Cor 12:7], *namely, for the common good* (Latin *communem*) (Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on 1 Corinthians* no. 725 [trans. F. R. Larcher]).

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Pentecost, Year C)

1. What is the difference between sanctifying grace and the charismatic graces? Where does Thomas Aquinas get this distinction from?

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### For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians*. Translated by F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón. Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012.
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *1-2 Corinthians*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1999.