

**The Charismatic Gifts
(Pentecost, Year A)****1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13**

³ [N]o one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

[⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of *wisdom*, and to another the utterance of *knowledge* according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another *faith* by the same Spirit, to another gifts of *healing* by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of *miracles*, to another *prophecy*, to another *the ability to distinguish between spirits*, to another various kinds of *tongues*, to another *the interpretation of tongues*. ¹¹ All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.]

¹² 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. ¹³ 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. Holy Spirit: “no one” can say Jesus is “Lord” (Greek *kyrios*) except by Spirit (12:3)
2. Gifts: varieties of “gifts” (Greek *charisma*) (12:4)
3. Individual Gifts:
 - a. Wisdom
 - b. Knowledge
 - c. Faith
 - d. Healing
 - e. Miracles
 - f. Prophecy
 - g. “Discernment of Spirits” (Greek *diakriseōs pneumatōn*) (12:10)
 - h. Tongues (cf. Acts 2:6, 11)
 - i. Interpretation of Tongues
4. Baptism: by one “Spirit” we were all “baptized” (1 Cor 12:13; cf. Acts 1:5)

The Catechism on Charismatic Gifts

So that she can fulfill her mission, the Holy Spirit “bestows upon [the Church] varied hierarchic and charismatic gifts, and in this way directs her.” (CCC 768)

Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church. There are *sacramental graces*, gifts proper to the different sacraments. There are furthermore *special graces*, also called *charisms* after the Greek term used by St. Paul

and meaning “favor,” “gratuitous gift,” “benefit.” Whatever their character—sometimes it is extraordinary, such as the gift of miracles or of tongues—charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity which builds up the Church. (CCC 2003)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (The Ascension of Jesus, Year A)

1. According to Paul, what are the special “gifts” of the Spirit?

2. According to the Catechism, what role do the charismatic gifts play in the life and mission of the Church?

For Further Reading

1. George T. Montague, S.M. *First Corinthians*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2011.