

# Section 13's Annual Enrichment – The Called & Gifted Workshop

By Jack & Karen Baker

Couples and priests from Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho gathered January 20, 2007 in Clackamas, OR for Section 13's annual enrichment.

This year Sherry Weddell and Fr. Mike Fones of the Catherine of Siena Institute presented a one day Called and Gifted Workshop to help couples and priests begin discerning their spiritual gifts (charisms). The workshop included the 120 question Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory developed by the Catherine of Siena Institute to help quantify strengths in 24 different spiritual charisms. After the inventory the presenters explained each of the charisms in more detail to help each person to better understand the results of the inventory.

Charisms were identified as gratuitous gifts given to us by God to give away to others. It was explained that the characteristics of a charism include:

- Being long-term, therefore they can be further developed
- Bears results *above and beyond* our natural abilities
- They are focused outward
- They are received from God, not chosen. Given by the Holy Spirit
- Enable us to be an agent of God's purpose for others.

When we exercise a charism we:

1. Are energized
2. Think we have found "our place" in life where we "fit in".
3. Are fruitful and effective without undue struggle
4. May experience joyful satisfaction

We were challenged at the end of the workshop to continue to discern our charisms through a testing process that involved choosing a gift we think we might have. The three signs of a charism include:

1. An unmistakable inner peace, energy and joy when using the gift.
2. Unusually effective and successful results in what you are attempting to accomplish.
3. Other people's direct or indirect recognition of the gift's presence.

It was explained that at the Catherine of Siena Institute, they work to make apostolic formation and support readily available to all lay Catholics by:

1. Making self-formation resources available to lay Catholics throughout the world.
2. Equipping parishes to become houses of formation, discernment, and apostolic support for the laity.
3. Forming clergy, religious, and lay leaders to be effective formatters of lay people.

4. Fostering awareness, discussion, theological inquiry, and pastoral consultation throughout the Church regarding the apostolic mission and formation of the laity.
5. Collaborating with interested individuals, groups, and organizations in the service of this mission.

On their website [www.siena.org](http://www.siena.org) I read

Every lay man and woman has been called by Christ (in his or her baptism) to a unique mission, and every lay man and woman has been gifted by the Holy Spirit in order to be able to answer that call.

The Church calls these gifts of the Holy Spirit which Christians are given for the sake of others "charisms". Discerning our charisms is an important first step to discerning God's call. These gifts of the Holy Spirit are both *clues* as to the nature of the mission for which God is preparing us and *tools* with which to successfully carry out our mission.

Those who take the Called & Gifted Workshop have a chance to take the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory, the first gifts inventory designed especially for Catholics. They will also have the chance to begin discerning their charisms. At a Called & Gifted Workshop, you will learn:

- The role of every Catholic and of the local parish in the mission of the Church to the world.
- The critical role of charisms in the life and service of other lay Catholics and in the life of the parish or Christian community.
- The signs and characteristics of 24 common charisms.
- How discerning and using your charisms can change your life and the life of others, your parish, and the world.

We highly recommend the The Called and Gifted Workshop and encourage you to visit the The Catherine of Siena Institute website [www.siena.org](http://www.siena.org) for additional information about their materials and how to schedule a workshop in your area.

We are blessed to have a friend, Eryn Huntington, in our parish that helped write the *Discerning Charisms* workbook. Eryn and her husband Mike attended a WWME Weekend that we presented. Eryn is helping us discern our individual charisms and has offered to work with couples, we gather, to help them discern their *couple charisms*.

We pray that God might help you to understand how you can best be His conduit to sharing His love with those around you.

Love & Prayers,  
Jack & Karen Baker