

A Short Exercise in Discernment

(all in italics could/should be copied and given to the participants)

Begin with the League Prayer.

Leader: In our League Prayer we have asked Creator God to “Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills....” And He will. And He does. The Spirit works within us, shows us what He wants us to do and be, nudges us, leads us and pulls us.

We have been gifted by Creator God, gifted with charismas, gifts that are given to be used for others, special gifts for the good of others. God calls all of us to recognize, develop and use these gift ...in our journey with our sisters and with Christ in the League.

We begin with the following premises:

Everyone has been gifted by God.

The gifts we have are not the same as the gifts others have.

All gifts are precious, none is greater than another.

All gifts fill a part of God's plan for His people.

Questions for personal reflection

(These could be on an overhead or each person could be given a copy.)

Leader As we reflect feel free to write your responses. You will be given six or seven minutes and then we will spend a few minutes sharing what you wish to share.

- 1. Name one thing that you do well. When do you do it? Why do you do it? When did you learn to do it? How long did it take you to learn how to do it? Do you enjoy doing it?*
- 2. Have you ever been asked to do something that you had never done before and you said “no”? What was this invitation? What happened? Were you ever asked again? Do you wish you had given it a try?*
- 3. Have you ever been asked to do something that you have never done before and you said “yes”? What was it? What happened?*

Leader We must all continue to grow in wisdom and holiness. You have been gifted by God. On the list in front of you are listed some spiritual gifts.



Place a happy face beside those you are doing now.



Place a star beside those you should be doing.



Place a triangle beside those you could easily do if you wanted to.



Place an arrow beside those you would have to work hard to do gracefully.



Place an X beside those you would not enjoy doing.

Spiritual Gift	Explanation
Administration.....	you can motivate, direct and inspire God's people to work together; tie up all loose ends, get things done, set a pattern for others to follow.
Apostleship.....	lead, inspire and develop the church by the teaching of truth, to lead others in their spirituality. This gift combines wisdom, discernment, leadership and teaching.
Caregiver.....	to willingly bear the burdens of others, to give assistance or relief from distress
Craftsmanship.....	use our hands and minds to build the kingdom of God through artistic, creative means; be willing to share in finished product or in teaching others
Discernment.....	to discover the will of God; to distinguish between truth and error. It involves wisdom and prayerfulness
Evangelist.....	enables us to share the Gospel with others so that they come to know God, within and beyond the parish
Exhortation.....	to stand beside people who need comfort, counsel and encouragement; to call forth the best in others; challenge others to see the goals to which God calls them
Faith.....	signifies that we have great confidence in God's promises, power and presence. It involves a healthy prayer life, sensitivity to the will of God and trust that God will answer our prayers.
Giving.....	that we offer our energy, abilities and material resources for the work of the church, with willingness, cheerfulness and generosity
Healing.....	to share in restoring the sick, to pray for God's help for the sufferer
Knowledge.....	to understand the truth of God's word and make it relevant in our daily lives
Mercy.....	to feel exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are weak or suffering; to forgive those who have erred, comfort the bereaved help those who face a crisis, become a peacemaker
Prophet.....	interpret and apply God's revelation in given situations, appreciates the dignity of all people, a sense of call. Knowledge of scripture and the workings of the church
Serving.....	willingly share the burdens of others and help them do their tasks more effectively; to pitch in and do what needs doing
Teacher.....	to communicate so that others can learn, to impart information and proclaim the truth
Diversity.....	to let love, God's glory and Christian unity be the motivation behind our actions
Wisdom.....	understanding of God's will, help others discover the wisdom they have within them
Effective living.....	to lead others to realize that discipleship entails following Jesus, beyond all bonds, at all costs, to risk caring for others
Communicator.....	to proclaim so that others will come to a better understanding of various issues
The working of miracles	a firm relationship with God, courage in the face of adversity, willingness to call on the power of God

Questions for discussion and sharing

Leader Identify four of the listed characteristics that would be of importance for a leader in the League, e.g., for the president, the standing committee chairpersons, the secretary, etc. Discuss.

What position would you consider given your responses to the gifts listed above? Discuss.

What is the greatest obstacle to allowing your name to be considered for an executive position in the League?

God has gifted each of us. We use and develop our God-given gifts to use in the service of God's people. He calls us to service. Is God calling you to serve as a member of the executive?

Conclusion

Reading: 1Cor. 12:4-11

Response to the reading: The gift I have received, I will give as gift.

Leader *You have received mercy, kindness and unconditional love from our God. R.*

You have many physical, emotional, mental and spiritual abilities that can be used to better the lives of others. R.

You have people in your life who have believed in you when you did not believe in yourself; people who stood by you in difficult times. R.

You have a heart capable of great compassion, empathy and tenderness. R.

You have inner strength, the grace of conversion, the gift of hope, the desire for good. R.

You have food on your table, clothes in your closet and a roof over your head. R.

You have the opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in your relationship with your God. R.

