

## Session Three – The Search Continues

Opening Prayer: This prayer from St. John Newman (p.18) should be read silently. After a pause, ask the group for their reactions. What words or phrases “speak to your heart.” Please be aware of each group members and if possible seek to include all, although each does not have to respond to each question.

(5-10 minutes)

### Communications Charisms

Ask first for volunteers, if there is anyone in the group that would like to present one of the Communications charisms? If there are volunteers, explain that charism first. Possibly to ask why did you choose to explain that charism? If there are no volunteers you could ask which charism the group wants to talk about first. The goal is to make the group a part of the process, rather than just listening to the leader talking. And because it is the third session there should be increased comfort among the members. (Information on p. 130-139 in Fruitful Discipleship)

**Evangelism** – by sharing faith with others in a way that draws them to become disciples of Jesus Ex. St. Catherine of Siena who worked ceaselessly for the healing of schism in the Church in the 14<sup>th</sup> century

**Prophecy** – communicating a call of God through inspired words or actions  
Ex. St. Dominic founded his famous order as a response to the Albigensian heretics

**Teaching**- enabling others to learn information to help reach their spiritual and personal potential Ex. St. John Baptist de La Salle who founded the Christian Brothers and changed the process of education

**Discussion:** Which of the Communications charisms is least likely to manifest itself? Just because it is not as “common” please look for God’s words in your personal life. Have you ever been part of any of these charisms? If so how?  
(Explanation and discussion 20 minutes)

### Five Steps of Discernment

Explain: **that discernment is a process.** Some definitions that may be helpful are a) it is a wise way of judging or b) a discovery leading to an action.

**Step One: EXPLORE** all of the possibilities What? How? When? Why?

**Step Two: EXPERIMENT** action is required, do it and see what happens

**Step Three: EXAMINE** your experience, what was your reaction

**Step Four: EVALUATE** your effectiveness, did it accomplish its purpose

**Step Five: EXPECT** and look for feedback in any form or reaction

**Discussion:** How long is the process? How long is each step? Can a person discern by themselves? (20 minutes)

## **Organizational Charisms**

Repeat the same process from earlier in the session by asking for volunteers and choosing the charisms they want to do first. Ask for volunteers even if there were none for the Communications charisms, someone may have grown bolder. Ask the group to look for similarities between these charisms as they are discussed.

**Administration-** planning and delegating to accomplish God's purpose for us

Ex. St. Vincent De Paul who founded the Sisters of Charity to create a network to assist the poor and sick

**Leadership-** directing the overall efforts of a group to complete a vision for a better future Ex. Created the Jesuits and managed the order for 15 years as superior general

**Giving** – by providing exceptional generosity to those in need

Ex. Blessed Katherine Drexel who had a vision from the Blessed Virgin “to give freely” of her family's wealth

**Service** – recognizing problems that prevent good things from happening and solving them Ex. Blessed Catherine Jarrige who created a network to restore the Catholic Church after the Fr. Revolution.

**Discussion:** Are there any similarities between these charisms? Why isn't Katherine Drexel associated with the charism of Prophecy? What is the difference between Administration and Leadership? Which grouping are you closer to Communications or Organization? How are these two groups different? (20 minutes)

**Closing Prayer** Ask the group if they have anyone they would like to lift up to God in an intention. Ask the quietist one in the group to read the prayer (if you think that is appropriate).

Remind the group that right now they are EXPLORING and that discernment is a process. Homework is session four.