

Session 3: Getting Out of the Way

(Adapted from pp 113 – 115 in the Siena Complete Resource)

Remember to have one of the leaders to keep track of the time throughout the meeting.

One of the leaders will Welcome everyone back to Session 3.

- If there is a new member in the group, have them introduce themselves and ask them to share the charism they are experimenting with.
- Remind everyone of the Ground Rules:
 - Confidentiality: what is shared in the group remains with the entire group.
 - It is not appropriate for any members to discuss what someone shared amongst themselves outside of the group.
 - Participation: Everyone is expected to participate.
- Sharing feedback/insight on another's experiment can help them clarify, see things they may not have noticed or make critical adjustments
- Stay on topic.
- Leading is the Holy Spirit's role; group leaders facilitate
Remind everyone about the Purpose of these meetings: To help each member of the group fruitfully discern whether or not they have a particular charism.

This week's session will seek to assess to what extent you are releasing control – letting go and letting God – in discerning your charism.

Read the Opening Prayer (led by the one of the co-leaders):

Place yourself in God's Presence...

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one

body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, “because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body,” it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, “Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body”, it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?

If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you”, nor again the head to the feet, “I do not need you”

Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this.

But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. ~ 1Corinthians 12:12-25

(Time from Welcome to Opening Prayer: 10 minutes)

Discernment Discussion Sharing from Getting Out of the Way Exercise between Session 2&3 pg 113 (Time: 15 minutes)

Reflection questions pg 114

- How we see and respond to the world’s needs are influenced by our charisms.

- Have you had an experience of working with others in ministry or outreach?
- How did you see charisms working together for the mission of the Body of Christ?

Sharing Experiments: (Time: 45 -75 minutes)

- Recall the three signs of a charism present:
 - Finding Joy/Energizing; feels like Prayer
 - We are extraordinarily effective; accomplishing more than we can do on our own – the Holy Spirit
 - Feedback from others: Direct or Indirect
- Each person shares their results since the last meeting
 - How did your experiment go?
 - Where the three signs of the charism present?
 - What was the effectiveness?
 - Was it remarkable, more than you would expect? Please share.
 - Did others respond to your actions at the time? How? Please share your feedback
 - Do you consider this experience to be successful? Why?/Why not?

After each person has had a chance to discuss the outcome of their experience, the others in the group will share insights based upon what was shared.

- Does anyone have other suggestions for experiments?
- Does anyone see evidence of a charism that is not being recognized and/or tested?

After everyone has had a chance to speak, prepare to conclude the meeting.

- Prior to the closing prayer, ask if there are any final thoughts/questions/suggestions for next meeting.

- Group Leaders Note: Begin to identify if any members of your group have a charism for becoming part of this ministry team.

One of the co-leaders will read the Closing Prayer:

Oh Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following You will does not mean that I'm actually doing so.

But I do believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing... that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost... I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Thomas Merton

For the next Six Weeks:

- Start your day with prayer; ask the Holy Spirit to help you Discern and Experiment
- Refer to your discerning together worksheet: pray for each person
- Log your experiments, journal your results
- Pay particular attention if compelled to act in accordance with a different Charism
- Check in with you mentor
- Meet with you small group: share and pray

As you experiment be aware of three signs of a Charism

- Were you feeling any of the following: prayerful, joyful and or did it feel right

- Was it supernatural i.e. not you're doing, but the work of the holy Spirit through you?
- Did you get any feedback—direct or indirect?
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Worry not, just trust the Holy Spirit and learn to let go! God doesn't look for people with a purpose for his call; God looks to call people for his purpose

God know us; God loves us; God wants all of us: for this we receive his unconditional Mercy and Forgiveness... and the Gift to transform the life of others,