

## A MODEL FOR GIFT DISCERNMENT

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Ex. 34:4, 36:7  
Rm. 8:14-17, 12:1-8  
1 Cor. 12:4-11, 12-26  
2 Cor. 5:17

Mt. 5:14-16, 25:14-30, 31-46  
Eph. 3:14-21, 4:1-16  
Mark 1:32-33  
Jn. 6:5-15, 8:31-36, 15:1-11

2 Tim. 1:3-7  
Col. 3:12-17  
Phil. 1:3-11

*"You are the light of the world!"*

### PRESENTATION POINTS

- A. Blocks/Obstacles to Developing One's Gifts
  - 1. False Humility
  - 2. Ordinarity
  - 3. Presumption that everyone has the gift
  - 4. Desire or envy of another's gift
  - 5. Fears
  
- B. Beliefs About Gifts
  - 1. All have been called and gifted by God.
  - 2. All gifts are for the building of the community and the extending of the Kingdom.
  - 3. Everyone has a personal responsibility to know, develop and use one's gifts.
  - 4. Lives have meaning when people use their gifts.
  - 5. Community is essential to achieve fuller knowledge of gifts.
  - 6. Gifts change.
  - 7. No person has all the gifts.
  - 8. All the gifts that are needed for mission are present within the extended community.
  
- C. Areas of Giftedness
  - 1. Faith experiences.
  - 2. Natural gifts
  - 3. Life experiences

### PROCEDURE FOR GIFT DISCERNMENT

1. Session begins with a prayer.
2. Stress the need for confidentiality.
3. Each individual reflects on his/her own gifts.
4. Gather in small groups with people who know each other.
5. Each member of the group in turn will share his/her gifts.
6. When the group identifies who will begin, the members quietly reflect on that person's gifts. After time for the people to compose their thoughts, the sharing begins.
7. One person begins by reading his/her list and then quietly listens as other members offer a response.
8. Each member of the group responds to the speaker's gifts in a specific and concrete way by: affirming, questioning and/or naming additional gifts.
9. This procedure is repeated for each member of the group.
10. Conclude this section of the process with a prayerful celebratory response.

### AFTER THE GIFT DISCERNMENT

1. Each person takes time to reflect on the following: *If these are my gifts...*
  - How am I called to use them?
  - What do I need to do to develop them?
  - What do I need from the community to use them more fully?
  - How am I being called to use them in greater collaboration?
2. The group reassembles and shares their responses to these questions.

## UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

1. Which scripture passages speak to me of gifts and how do those passages speak to me directly?
2. What makes it difficult for me to acknowledge my gifts?
3. What are my gifts? (Use the back of this page, if necessary?)
4. Where and how is God calling me to use my gifts?
5. What do I need to do to strengthen and develop my gifts?
6. What do I need from this parish community to help me to place my gifts more fully at the service of the gospel?