

Apostolate Reflections

A special charism?

A charism is a gift or power given in God's grace and love for humanity. It is a spiritual energy that takes shape in a person or a community's life.

All the baptized are given the gift of Christian life by their baptism. That includes what is mentioned in the baptismal prayer: "Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works."

There is also a more specific gift that individuals or Christian communities receive for the building up of the Church or the carrying out of the Church's mission. There are a variety of ways to explore this. For example, there is a Benedictine charism, a Franciscan charism, and a Dominican charism. In the case of a religious community the charism is usually received through the founder. The charism is a living force that adapts to changing circumstances and opportunities. Over time it becomes incarnate in new ways.

Is there anything about how you live the Christian life that seems to be a charism?

In using the categories of the Renewal – Apostolate Cycle does something touch on a charism you have been given? Have one of these areas drawn you more fully and deeply? Do you find yourself more alive on one more than the others? Within an area is there some special gift or power you feel called to? *Use the area below to make notes for yourself.*

