Round Table Discussion on **INTERCESSORY PRAYER as a CHARISM** (20 minutes)

**WHAT IS INTERCESSORY PRAYER?**

**CCC 2634**:

A form of prayer of petition on BEHALF of OTHERS. The prayer of intercession leads us to pray as CHRIST, our unique intercessor prayed.

We are all called to be intercessors, to pray not only for our own needs, but for those of others in order to build up the Church. Sometimes referred to as “Standing In The Gap.”

**WHAT IS A CHARISM? (always a service towards others)**

**(Handout, Pg 6 – THE CATHOLIC SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY, 3RD Edition, Sherry Weddell.)**

Charism is simply the Greek word used in the New Testament for “favor” or “gratuitous gift.” Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to Christians by the Holy Spirit to enable them to be powerful channels of God’s love and redeeming presence in the world. Whether extraordinary or ordinary, charisms are to be used in charity or service to build up the Church (CCC, 2003).

***John 14:12***

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the***

***works that I do; and GREATER works than these will he do.”***

**CCC 2003:**

Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to COLLABORATE in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church. There are *sacramental graces,* gifts proper to the different sacraments. There are furthermore *special graces,* also called *CHARISMS* after the Greek term used by St. Paul and meaning “favor,” “gratuitous gift,” “benefit.” Whatever their character – sometimes it is extraordinary, such as the gift of miracles or of tongues – charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity which builds up the Church.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? (Handout, Pg. 37,38 - The Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory.)**

Christians with a charism of **intercessory prayer**

* love to pray for others and do so for hours without tiring.
* They do not tell God what to do, but seek first to discern God’s will in the matter and then pray that God’s purposes be done in that situation.
* Receive insights or guidance from the Holy Spirit for whom and how to pray for them.
* Often receive remarkable answers to their prayers for others.
* People “know” this about intercessors and seek them out.

**EXAMPLES OF REMARKABLE PRAYERS ANSWERED:**

1. Several years ago I attended a Steubenville Conference as an Adult Chaperone. After the trip, one of the young adults who also chaperoned, asked me to pray for her. Her request was that she felt she was ready to be married, and asked if I would pray for her to meet her future husband – SOON! I went home and wrote the request down in a notebook. I took seriously this pray and I felt it was God’s will too – that she WAS ready for marriage. Within 2 months she started dating the man to whom she is married to today. I was invited to their wedding, and as part of their gift, I went back to my notebook, ripped out the request, which had the date that I started praying on it, and tucked it into their wedding card.

2) (Shortened version) Most recently, about 6 months ago, a woman whom I had never met before called the St. Agnes parish office looking for me. She read the article in the November 2014 Compass that was about a faith expeience I had. She wanted me to know that since reading that article, she felt a connection and started praying for my family. She wanted to meet me, tell me her part of the “connection,” and wanted to know if I would pray for some special needs in her family as well. She confided in me, that God had promised her she would have twins. This was almost 30 years ago. She is beyond her child-bearing years now, so she thought maybe God meant she would have the twins as grandchildren. She was about to give up her prayers, when she read the article. She asked me to pray for her son & daughter in law, that if it be God’s will, they have twins. I just received a phone call from her this past Saturday. (as I was waiting to go into the chapel at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help – there was a healing service that day) She told me she just received a call from her son & his wife that morning – she is 2 ½ months pregnant – WITH TWINS.

**RESOURCES:**

[**www.siena.org**](http://www.siena.org)

**The Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory, 3rd Edition, Sherry Weddell (St. Catherine of Siena Institute)**

**Discerner’s Prayer – Handout**

[**www.spirithome.com/intercessory-prayer.html#what**](http://www.spirithome.com/intercessory-prayer.html#what)