

**Suggested Content for Homilies to Promote
the Called and Gifted Workshop
being held Saturday, March 21, 2026
at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield**

This content was compiled and based upon information about charisms and the discernment process.

Suggested Content for First Homily:

One of the quiet temptations in spiritual life is to believe that holiness belongs to “someone else.” We admire the saints, we respect our priests and religious, we’re grateful for parish leaders—and somewhere along the way we can begin to think that God’s real work is done by a select few, while the rest of us simply support it from the sidelines.

But that is not how the Holy Spirit works.

St. Paul reminds us again and again that the Church is a body—one body with many parts. And he is very clear about this: *“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”* Not to a few. Not to the especially holy. To **each**.

These manifestations of the Spirit are what we call **charisms**—the particular gifts the Holy Spirit gives each of us for the building up of the Church. They are not talents, though God can certainly use our talents. They are not rewards for being good Catholics. Charisms are given freely, intentionally, and personally by God so that His love can reach others through us.

Among the 23 gifts that will be discussed, some are called to leadership, others to encouragement. Some have the gift of mercy, others hospitality, teaching, service, evangelization craftsmanship. These gifts are not meant to be hidden. They are meant to be discerned, strengthened, and offered back to God for His purposes.

And here is the important part: if we do not recognize our gifts, if we never ask what the Holy Spirit has entrusted to us, then parts of the Body of Christ remain inactive—not because God failed to give, but because we never learned how to receive.

This is why the Church speaks so often about discernment. God does not ask us to guess our calling alone. He desires to reveal it. The Holy Spirit delights in guiding us, confirming where we bear fruit, and showing us where our joy and the needs of the Church meet.

When parish life is rooted in the gifts of the Spirit, something changes. Faith becomes less about “what I should do” and more about “who God has created me to be.” Ministry becomes less about filling slots and more about releasing grace. The Church becomes less tired—and more alive.

On **March 21**, the Diocese of La Crosse and Marshfield Catholic Parishes will be hosting a Called and Gifted workshop at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield designed to help parishioners begin—or deepen—this process of discernment. You’ll hear more details soon but know this: it is not a program for “the chosen few.” It is an invitation for adults at least 20 yrs. old who have ever wondered, *“Lord, how do You want to work through me?”* Please check out the website mentioned in the parish bulletin for more information.

As we continue this Mass and the week ahead, let us ask the Holy Spirit for open hearts. Let us trust that God has not overlooked any one of us. And let us remember that the same Spirit who descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost is alive, active, and still giving gifts—right here, right now, through you.

Fr. Konopa and his team at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish have successfully hosted the Called and Gifted process for several years. The following are Fr. Konopa’s words of support:

“Charisms are for service: to build up the Kingdom of God. Each person receives a unique combination at baptism. When people discover their unique charisms, it opens their eyes. There’s more meaning, more clarity, more confidence, more purpose, and more JOY. For those who have been living the Christian life but aren’t sure where to direct their energies, this is for them. Our parish and our community are blessed when people know what ministries and outreaches energize them.”

Further information about the Called and Gifted Workshop, FAQ’s on charisms and resources for publicity found here: diolc.org/catechesis/called-and-gifted-workshop

Note: There have been 3 parish bulletin announcements included in the Chancery Bulletin thus far, and there will be more to follow.

The Catherine of Siena Institute website can be found here: siena.org/called-gifted

Suggested Content for Second Homily:

Very often, when we think about the Holy Spirit, we think about moments—Pentecost, Confirmation, times of prayer when we feel strengthened or consoled. But the work of the Holy Spirit is not only something we remember from the past. It is something alive, active, and unfolding right now in the Church.

Sacred Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit does not give gifts randomly or sparingly. St. Paul reminds us, *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit... to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”* Each. Individual. No exceptions.

These gifts are what the Church calls **charisms**—spiritual gifts given to us at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation. They are not rewards for holiness, and they are not merely natural talents. Charisms are given so that God’s love can reach others through us. Whether they seem extraordinary or ordinary—whether it is craftsmanship, giving, helps, intercessory prayer, music, writing, or wisdom—every charism is meant to build up the Body of Christ.

One of the challenges we face as Catholics is that many of us have never been helped to recognize these gifts. We may serve faithfully for years and still wonder, *“Am I really doing what God is asking of me?”* Or we may compare ourselves to others and feel inadequate, or exhausted, or unsure where we belong.

When a person begins to discern their charisms, something shifts. Faith becomes more personal. Service becomes more life-giving. Ministry becomes less about obligation and more about joy. Using our charisms is often described as energizing, peaceful, and deeply satisfying—because it is an expression of how God is already at work in us.

The Church teaches clearly that all the baptized not only **have** charisms but also have the **right and responsibility** to use them for the mission of the Church. When we discern them prayerfully, we gain clarity in decisions, avoid burnout, and learn to appreciate the gifts of others rather than judging or competing with them.

This discernment does not happen overnight. It unfolds through prayer, reflection, experience, and guidance. For that reason, the Diocese of La Crosse and Marshfield Catholic Parishes will be hosting a **Called and Gifted Workshop on Saturday, March 21** at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield. The day is designed to help parishioners learn how the Holy Spirit works through charisms and to begin recognizing the gifts God has already placed within them. Please check out the website mentioned in the parish bulletin for more information.

You'll hear more details in the coming weeks, but I encourage you even now to pray about it. Ask the Lord, "*How do You want Your love to reach others through me?*" Because God has not called us simply to occupy a pew, but to take our place in His living Body.

As Saint Catherine of Siena once said, "*Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.*" May the Holy Spirit help us discover who we are meant to be—and give us the courage to live it.