

Executive Summary: Spiritual Gifts Seminar Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish – Christmas 2025

This year, as part of our ongoing renewal after the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey, more than **40 parishioners** participated in our first **Spiritual Gifts Seminar**. Through prayer, teaching, and charism discernment, participants discovered the spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has entrusted to them for the building up of the Body of Christ. What emerged from this process is both deeply hopeful and profoundly clarifying: **God has already given our parish every gift we need for the next chapter of our mission.**

Parish-Wide Trends: A Rich Diversity of Charisms

The seminar revealed a broad spectrum of charisms present within our parish family.

1. Gifts of Welcome & Compassion

Hospitality, Mercy, Caregiving, Helps, Serving

These gifts foster belonging, welcome, and compassionate accompaniment.

2. Gifts of Faith & Prayer

Faith, Intercessory Prayer, Encouragement, Healing

These charisms sustain the parish's spiritual life and provide hope and healing.

3. Gifts of Teaching & Wisdom

Teaching, Knowledge, Wisdom, Discernment

These gifts equip parishioners to lead others into deeper faith and spiritual understanding.

4. Gifts of Leadership & Mission

Pastoring, Leadership, Administration, Prophecy, Evangelism, Missionary

These charisms prepare our community for bold evangelization and strategic growth.

5. Gifts of Creativity & Expression

Music, Craftsmanship, Communication

These gifts enrich worship, beautify parish life, and support communication and outreach.

DMI Survey Themes and What They Mean for Our Parish Family

The DMI provided a snapshot of parishioners' experience of parish life and their hopes for the future. Several major themes emerged.

Before identifying how God has already equipped us to meet these needs, it is important to name **what the DMI revealed and what it means for our parish family right now.**

DMI Theme 1: A Desire for Greater Welcome, Outreach, and Belonging

Parishioners expressed a longing for deeper connection, more personal invitation, and a stronger sense of community.

This means: our parish family is hungry for relationships that make people feel seen, known, and valued.

DMI Theme 2: A Need for More Formation and Understanding of the Faith

Many parishioners indicated a desire for greater catechesis, small-group learning, and adult formation opportunities.

This means: our community is eager to grow spiritually and desires deeper grounding in the Catholic faith.

DMI Theme 3: A Call for Missionary Outreach and Evangelization

Parishioners want our parish to move outward—to invite, to proclaim, and to share the Gospel more intentionally.

This means: our parish senses that God is calling us into a new chapter of evangelization.

DMI Theme 4: Strengthening Prayer Life and Spiritual Accompaniment

There is a desire for richer communal prayer, deeper spiritual practices, and support through life's challenges.

This means: our community longs to encounter God more intimately and to walk with one another in faith.

****Alignment of Needs with Gifts:
God Has Already Provided Parishioners Ready to Serve****

Only after identifying these needs can we recognize the extraordinary truth revealed in our Spiritual Gifts Seminar: **For every need expressed in the DMI, the Holy Spirit has already provided parishioners—real individuals—who have recently discovered charisms that directly meet these needs.**

These parishioners are gifted, ready, and willing to serve today.

For the Desire for Greater Welcome & Belonging...

The Holy Spirit has provided parishioners gifted in:

- Hospitality
- Mercy
- Caregiving
- Helps & Serving

These individuals naturally create welcome, build relationships, and accompany those in need.

For the Need for More Formation and Understanding of the Faith...

The Holy Spirit has provided parishioners gifted in:

- Teaching
- Knowledge
- Wisdom
- Discernment

These parishioners are ready to lead faith studies, mentor others, support RCIA, and strengthen catechesis.

For the Call for Missionary Outreach and Evangelization...

The Holy Spirit has provided parishioners gifted in:

- Leadership
- Prophecy
- Evangelism
- Missionary Charisms
- Pastoring

These individuals can help our parish move outward, proclaim the Gospel, and initiate new ministries.

For the Desire for Stronger Prayer Life and Spiritual Accompaniment...

The Holy Spirit has provided parishioners gifted in:

- Faith
- Intercessory Prayer
- Healing
- Encouragement

These parishioners can nurture prayer groups, accompany those in crisis, and strengthen parish spirituality.

**Pastoral Insight: Discovering Our Parish's Core Charism
Amid this diversity of gifts, one charism rose with unmistakable clarity: HOSPITALITY!**

This was the most frequently identified gift across ages, ministries, and communities.

Hospitality is more than a trait—it is a **Spirit-given charism** shaping the very identity of Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish. It explains:

- Why more than **200 new households** have joined in two years
- Why new parishioners consistently comment on the warmth of our community
- Why accompaniment, compassion, and welcome come so naturally to us
- Why our parish feels alive, connected, and hopeful

Discovering this core charism is a major breakthrough. It will:

- Guide our parish mission
- Shape leadership formation
- Direct our evangelization efforts
- Influence ministry development
- Anchor our long-term pastoral plan

This is a moment of grace—Christ revealing who we are and who we are becoming.