

Gift Interview and Discussion Guide

In order to recommend a particular ministry to a parishioner, a Gift Interview can help match a person's gifts with your ministry opportunities. Below is a framework to help you structure the conversation.

- Thank the parishioner for taking time to talk about using their gifts.
- Share why it is important to know our gifts are and become involved in a ministry at the parish.
- Give information about "First Fruits" and how our gifts help build up the Body of Christ and the common good.
- Talk about the importance of Catholic community.
How is coming together to offer our gifts greater than sum of its parts?
- Reflect on how different gifts interact and complement each other and how each person is unique.
- Give an example of how sharing our gifts encourages others to share their gifts.
i.e. You are in the choir and it inspires someone else to join, who has always wanted to sing in a choir.

Review their Gift Inventory survey and discuss the gifts they have checked. It is helpful to send the Gift Inventory survey before your meeting. An example of a Gift Inventory is included in the Toolkit.

If a parishioner is fairly certain of their gifts:

- Ask for their ideas on how you can be of help to discover more about their gifts.
- Ask how they think they want to use their gifts.
- What are their areas of interest in the parish community? Refer to the handout describing focus of each Commission and provide an overview.
- What activities excite them and bring them energy?
Do they want to connect with a certain parish activity or group?

If they need more help discovering their gifts:

- Ask if they prefer to work with people, ideas or things?
- Do they prefer to work alone or with a group?
- What motivates them in general and to serve?
- Ask them to tell you about a time when they really enjoyed or felt satisfied with an activity?

Other questions to explore:

- Why do they want to participate in parish life?
- What type of time commitment are they able to make?
- Do they want a short-term or on-going commitment?
- Are they comfortable with groups or being part of a team? (i.e. Commissions/committees?)
- Do they prefer to hands-on activities where they can see immediate results?
- How do they feel about using their gifts for ministry? Are they:

___ Afraid ___ Complicated ___ Burned Out ___ Eager ___ Curious ___ Glad
___ Reasonably Comfortable ___ Unsure of Role ___ No Feelings Specified ___ Other _____