

Discovering My Gifts and Talents

This survey is designed to help you identify your natural gifts and talents -- the God-given gifts and talents you have to share with your parish and the community. This survey was developed and copyrighted by Paul Wilkes, the author of New Beginnings--A New Way to Live a Catholic Life, and is used with the author's permission. Further duplication is prohibited.

Directions: Answer these questions honestly, using the scale for responses printed below. Do not deliberate too long on each question; report your immediate reaction, not the answer you think is the right one or the one you think people want you to say.

Rate your responses according to this scale:

5=All the time 4=Most of the time 3=Some of the time 2=Once in a while 1=Almost never 0=Never

- ___ A-1. When a difficult or confused situation arises, I am a person who others turn to for help with organization.
- ___ B-1. I would use song or dance, rather than words, to express my faith.
- ___ C-1. I like to think of new ways to show people about God and God's ways.
- ___ D-1. Somehow I feel a calling to help those who are troubled.
- ___ E-1. I am a person who others can confide in.
- ___ F-1. I feel great satisfaction making things with my hands.
- ___ G-1. People say I'm the kind of person who gives them hope.
- ___ H-1. I actually feel a sense of joy when I give.
- ___ I-1. I like jobs like stuffing envelopes, working in the kitchen, basically helping wherever I'm needed.
- ___ J-1. I would take a person in need into my home.
- ___ K-1. When people ask me to pray for them, I remember to do so.
- ___ L-1. I'm considered a motivator--people like to work with me.
- ___ M-1. I would feel comfortable leading a small group discussing their faith.
- ___ N-1. When I see things that are unfair in the world, I want to do something about them.
- ___ O-1. When I see a need, I like to find a way to meet it.
- ___ P-1. I somehow sense that I would be a good teacher.
- ___ Q-1. Sometimes I feel standard church ministries do not address the many real needs of the world.
- ___ A-2. Although I have no trouble leading, I like to delegate responsibility to others.
- ___ B-2. I feel that the Church has not tapped the artistic capabilities of its people.
- ___ C-2. When I have an idea, I know how to communicate it to other people.
- ___ D-2. I can tell when someone is hurting even before they say it.
- ___ E-2. Sometimes I can see clearly what is troubling another person.
- ___ F-2. I like to make things and feel a sense of accomplishment when I do.
- ___ G-2. I generally have a positive attitude and try to help other people be positive.

Continue to the next page.

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Rate your responses according to this scale:

5=All the time 4=Most of the time 3=Some of the time 2=Once in a while 1=Almost never 0=Never

- _____ H-2. I have the ability to both make money and give it away.
- _____ I-2. I am detail-oriented and can see little things that need to be done.
- _____ J-2. If no one is talking to a person, I'll try to make him or her feel welcome.
- _____ K-2. I can sometimes feel God's presence when I pray.
- _____ L-2. I'm aware of other people and I adjust my approach so as to get a task accomplished.
- _____ M-2. I would enjoy taking Eucharist to shut-ins or those in the hospital.
- _____ N-2. I believe there is usually a peaceful way to solve even difficult situations.
- _____ O-2. I am still ready to help even if a person isn't considered "deserving."
- _____ P-2. I like to find inspirational material or passages and pass them on to others.
- _____ Q-2. If I see a need in my parish, I would not be shy about proposing a new ministry.
- _____ A-3. I can take available resources and people and organize them to do a job.
- _____ B-3. When I walk into a place I see ways to beautify it.
- _____ C-3. I'm not shy about talking about my beliefs, even around others outside the church.
- _____ D-3. People say I'm good with people who are down or depressed.
- _____ E-3. Even when I see what is wrong in a person's life I am gentle about telling them about it.
- _____ F-3. I like to work artfully -- making or building things people appreciate.
- _____ G-3. I have no problem supporting with people who are troubled or confused.
- _____ H-3. I don't have to be acknowledged when I give time, things or money to others.
- _____ I-3. I am happy to assist others who can do jobs that I am not able to do.
- _____ J-3. I go out of my way to make people feel comfortable, regardless of where I am.
- _____ K-3. I can see that prayer really does work; I know prayers are answered.
- _____ L-3. I like to set goals and see progress being made toward them.
- _____ M-3. When I encounter fallen away Catholics, I like to reach out to them and be friendly.
- _____ N-3. I feel a lot of compassion for the poor and needy.
- _____ O-3. I find myself helping even when people don't directly ask me for help.
- _____ P-3. I feel I can explain what I believe reasonably well and in an interesting way.
- _____ Q-3. The idea of new, uncharted and untried ministries or services excites me.
- _____ A-4. It's not hard for me to see the "big picture" and to organize things accordingly.
- _____ B-4. When I attend a liturgy, I can imagine ways to make it more creative.

Continue to the next page.

(3)

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- _____ C-4. People consider me a good communicator.
- _____ D-4. If someone is neglected, I'm often the person who tries to help them.
- _____ E-4. When people are in trouble they seem to turn to me for help.
- _____ F-4. I easily work with different kinds of material and tools.
- _____ G-4. I want to help others "be all that they can be."
- _____ H-4. Sometimes I'm stretched by my giving, but I think it is worth it.
- _____ I-4. I'm an "odd jobs" kind of person--I don't mind doing various jobs, even menial ones.
- _____ J-4. I would feel comfortable making my home available for small gatherings.
- _____ K-4. I don't worry that my prayers are answered exactly as I want--I leave it up to God to decide.
- _____ L-4. I can organize well and projects I'm involved with then to go smoothly.
- _____ M-4. I am interested in what makes people tick--what the rest of their life is about.
- _____ N-4. I want to do something about problems in the world rather than talk about them.
- _____ O-4. I will do whatever job needs doing, whether I have that special skill or not.
- _____ P-4. When I talk I am aware of my audience and adapt my style and words so they will understand.
- _____ Q-4. I'm the kind of person who people say "thinks outside the box."
- _____ A-5. I can look ahead to events, figure out an organization plan and identify possible problems.
- _____ B-5. I think art is a way to communicate God's presence.
- _____ C-5. I sense that people listen to me when I speak.
- _____ D-5. I have cared for others and don't usually complain about it.
- _____ E-5. Even when I've heard a problem before, I tend to have patience hearing about it again.
- _____ F-5. When I look at a particular project or item I can see how it was done.
- _____ G-5. I am a person people come to when they are discouraged or distressed.
- _____ H-5. I'm happy when I give something that makes a difference in another person's life.
- _____ I-5. I actually see holiness in doing small, insignificant jobs well.
- _____ J-5. People think of me as a good host or hostess.
- _____ K-5. I enjoy praying as a way of speaking to God.
- _____ L-5. I like to organize projects and don't mind being responsible for them.
- _____ M-5. I like to look at the whole person and provide what is needed, physically, emotionally or spiritually.
- _____ N-5. When I see something wrong I can organize people to fix it.

Continue to the next page.

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- _____ O-5. I have a hard time saying no when called to be of service.
- _____ P-5. People tell me I talk about religious beliefs in a straightforward and interesting way.
- _____ Q-5. I do not like limitations put on groups for what they can achieve.
- _____ A-6. I can make a decision and then follow through.
- _____ B-6. I feel that drama, dance and music can open a soul to God.
- _____ C-6. I sense that people are not put off by men when I talk about faith or religion.
- _____ D-6. I don't just see a person's problems even if I am put off by them--I see the person within.
- _____ E-6. People tell me I've helped them work through their problems.
- _____ F-6. I feel it is a God-given talent to work with my hands.
- _____ G-6. I feel a kinship with people who others consider backsliders.
- _____ H-6. I believe I'm blessed, so I'm happy to be generous with what I have.
- _____ I-6. You don't have to ask me to do something--I usually pitch in right away.
- _____ J-6. People tend to drop in at my house unexpected and I don't mind.
- _____ K-6. I pray on a regular, daily basis.
- _____ L-6. I'm not afraid to dream big, even though I might fail.
- _____ M-6. I have patience and will stick with a person who is having difficulty.
- _____ N-6. I believe that social injustice is one of the world's biggest issues.
- _____ O-6. I like to volunteer, regardless of what I'm asked to do.
- _____ P-6. I feel I somewhat understand Christ and can explain his life and teachings to others.
- _____ Q-6. I'd rather start something new than work in something that is already up and running.

What to Do Next:

1. Using the Tally sheet on the next page, record your answers for each question (A-1, B-1, C-1,...A-2, B-2, C-2)
2. Total the numbers for each column (A, B, C... etc.)
3. The highest scores for columns A-Q indicate your strongest spiritual and natural talents which you can identify using the table listed on the tally sheet (eg., A=Administration; B=Artistic Expression, C=Communication,... etc.)

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Directions:

1. Use this Tally sheet to record your answers for each question (A-1, B-1, C-1,....A-2, B-2, C-2,... etc.)
2. Total the numbers for each column (A, B, C... etc.)
3. The highest scores for columns A-Q indicate your strongest spiritual and natural talents which you can identify using the table listed below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
A	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
B	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
C	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
D	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
E	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
F	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
G	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
H	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
I	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
J	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
L	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
M	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
N	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
O	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
P	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Q	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

A = Administration
 B = Artistic Expression
 C = Communicating/Evangelization
 D = Compassion/Mercy
 E = Counseling and Guidance
 F = Craftsmanship

G = Encouragement
 H = Giving
 I = Helping
 J = Hospitality
 K = Intercession/Prayer
 L = Leadership

M = Pastoring/Shepherding
 N = Social Ministry and Reconciliation
 O = Service
 P = Teaching
 Q = New ministries

Record your Major Gift (highest score) here: _____

Record your Other Gifts (next 3 highest) here: _____

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Explanation of Talents

Administration -- organizing events, recruiting volunteers, accounting, seeing goals and being able to organize to meet those goals; serving on the Pastoral Council, committee or board.

Artistic Expression -- using music, art, singing, dance in liturgy; concerts, painting, crafts that may or may not be parish-related.

Communicating -- editing a parish newsletter, website or social media; creating brochures and flyers; organizing distribution of faith resources to parish family; publicizing parish events and programs.

Compassion/Mercy -- visiting the sick, hospitalized and shut-ins; directing or serving in bereavement ministry; assisting those in need, whether emotional, physical or spiritual.

Counseling -- taking with those who have a burden; providing spiritual direction and companionship; advising various groups on life directions (ie, teenagers, newly married, newly retired, widowed).

Craftsmanship -- using your hands and abilities in construction, physical maintenance, gardening, baking to create or maintain so that the work of the parish or other groups can be enhanced; teaching others your skills.

Encouragement -- offering help and support to others who are having a physical, material or spiritual problem; being a loving presence for those who are suffering.

Giving -- modeling a generous spirit and lifestyle; being generous and available when special material needs arise in the parish or community so that God's work might be done.

Helping -- assisting and assuring whoever needs help, be it in the office, the kitchen, special ministries, childcare.

Hospitality -- welcoming at parish events or liturgy, welcoming newcomers, providing food for parish events and funerals.

Intercessory Prayer -- praying alone or with a group for the needs of the parish, parishioners, or the community.

Leadership -- serving on parish committees and task forces; taking responsibility for new or established ministries, having a vision and encouraging others to assist in accomplishing tasks for the good of the parish family and community.

Pastoring/Shepherding -- being a small group leader, visiting in homes or hospitals and jails, providing a religious presence and leading others closer to God; serving as a spiritual companion, helping others deepen their faith.

Social Ministry/Peace-Making -- working to alleviate social ills and redress injustice; working on peace issues within the community and world; creating and advocating for just and peaceful alternatives.

Service -- being available to serve in whatever capacity the situation requires in the parish or community.

Teaching -- teaching, facilitating or assisting in religious formation opportunities for children, youth or adults.

Birthing New Ministries -- seeing needs in the parish or community and finding ways to address them; organizing resources and people to address new needs.

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