

Mary Ellyn Merpi:

The Called and Gifted class has been an amazing journey. When I began this class, was not sure what the Lord would show me or reveal to me. My prayer life and activity in the church was good. Needless to say, the Lord continues to call us to a greater commitment to work for his kingdom. Our relationship through this experience is to grow deeper in love with Him.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us at Baptism and Confirmation. We receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and use them, but many times do not recognize them. This journey has helped me identify what the gifts can do for us but also what the Charisms are for each of us. Charisms are for the good of others, for the enrichment of the kingdom. Usually, outside of our church community is where we would see them most often.

Learning about all the Charisms and how they can embrace many different combinations is so exciting and yet overwhelming. Our God is an awesome God! He will continue to use us when we surrender to His call. We as warriors are called to equip others to fight against evil in our world with love, mercy, forgiveness, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

My personal experience of this class has challenged me to keep surrendering to the Lord all that I am so I may serve His kingdom. I will never meet perfection; however, I will strive to run the race until the race is finished. I am learning more about my Charisms and am beginning to identify Charisms in others. The encouragement we received to recognize these Charisms will benefit the whole body of the church. Each of us called according to God's divine plan.

I am so grateful for the new relationships I have made during the class and looking forward to sharing this experience with others. We all need the Body of Christ to grow in God's love, mercy forgiveness and grace. We will never be the same. Praise God.