

Mary Vera:

Do you know what a charism is? I had no idea and had never even heard that word before I was asked to join the called and gifted program. One Sunday after mass my friend Kim asked me if I would be interested in getting involved in a program about charisms and discernment. Without even thinking about it, I said yes! I have always felt that anytime I'm asked to participate in a church activity it's the Lord's way of calling me to be closer to him and to somehow help others. Upon starting the called and gifting classes I quickly learned what a charism is, what my charism is, and how I can use it to fulfill my mission from the Lord. A charism is not a talent or something that has been genetically inherited rather they are special gifts given to us from the Holy Spirit during our baptism. God has given us all special gifts that he knows we can do well, will bring us joy and happiness and when practiced, build up the body of Christ.

I have personally had a very positive experience in attending the Called and Gifted courses. They have been educational, fun, and fulfilling. The information I learned has opened my eyes to show me that many things I have done to help others and have brought me happiness have been using my charisms. I am seeing that Christ has called me to do these things and I am living my life with the mission in mind. By using my charisms, and teaching others about theirs, we will empower each other to be a channel of God's goodness and transform the world around us. Each day I am praying and asking God to show me new ways to exercise my charisms to glorify the Lord. I pray that our wonderful community will come together to be instruments of God.