



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

October, 2019

Dear Friends:

We have begun our sessions of Year V Formation for Mission and Ministry, and the program has been well received by Chancery Personnel. This year, we are reviewing how we have been gifted by a God who loves us lavishly, and how we are called to use those gifts to serve others, especially the poorest among us. We especially invited **parish staff, stewardship committees and Deacons so that this retreat can be offered at parishes.** All presentations, videos and other resources are available on line.

After a review of the key documents of Vatican II and post-conciliar documents by recent popes and American bishops, we concentrate on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). A couple years ago, I attended the annual conference of NALM (the National Association of Lay Ministry) and Fr. Richard Fragomeni Professor of Liturgy at Catholic Theological Union addressed what Pope Francis means by the Joy of the Gospel. As the baptized, we are all called to use our gifts joyfully.

Next everyone takes a Catholic Spirituality Inventory to discover what top three or five gifts God has blessed each with. Each share at their tables their gifts; and, the interesting point is that people at the tables, mostly those whom work in the same department, affirm each other's gifts. In religious language, we would call that "discernment" of gifts.

I have attached a brochure to this Caritas issue to register for the upcoming retreat "***Formed to Live Joyfully, Our Time, Talent and Treasure.***" I am also attaching the yearly schedule showing dates, times and parish cluster groups. Please remember to invite all stewardship and adult faith leaders to this retreat. Since the retreat is co-sponsored by my office and Stewardship and Mission Development, we hope that these same people will take what they have learned and offer the retreat at our parishes. All information is on our website, and it is password protected: <https://charlestdioocese.org/formation-for-ministry/leader-resources-called-to-live-joyfully-retreat/>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Peace and all good,

Sister Kathleen Adamski, of.