

Charismatic Prayer Group Self-Assessment

PURPOSE:

1. ***Help leadership*** ascertain the needs of local prayer groups and ***how best to assist*** them to strengthen and maintain strong and vibrant Prayer Groups.

2. ***Help Prayer Groups*** to assess their strengths and weaknesses and ***to seek ways*** to become stronger and more vibrant.

A starting point, we believe, should be based on what a strong, vibrant, Prayer Group should be. The questions are focused to achieve that objective.

A **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** is the informal worship session of a charismatic group who meet to praise and listen to God. Praise is expressed in a number of ways: songs, formal or spontaneous prayer, silence, and even applause or shouts of joy. God speaks to those gathered through Scripture, teaching, exhortation, charismatic gifts and personal sharing. (John Boucher)

The vision of the **Charismatic Renewal**: An evangelistic renewal movement seeking to restore the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and the use of the charismatic gifts to the heart of Catholic Christian life. A prayer group is evangelistic if the members have zeal for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and bring others into a personal relationship with Jesus and are taking concrete steps to reach out to others.

[It is recommended that this Assessment should be given in an informal small group setting, preferably someone from diocesan leadership with leadership of individual groups. All participants should be aware that there are no wrong answers. Together we seek to honor the Lord through our mutual sharing and efforts.]

Prayer Group in General

1. What is the name of your Prayer Group? Parish? Town/City?

2. How long has your prayer group existed? Please specify.

_____ 0-5 years _____ 5-10 years _____ 10-15 years _____ 15-20 years _____ 20-25 years
_____ 25-30 years _____ 30+years

3. What is the vision of your prayer group?

What do you consider the charism of your prayer group to be?

What is the most outstanding gift experienced in your prayer group?

4. Do you consider your prayer group to be a vibrant charismatic prayer group?

Circle one: Yes No

What are some specific examples that make you say this?

5. How would you rate the leadership of your prayer group?

Circle one: Outstanding Strong Weak Indifferent

Other (Use one word): _____

Describe the leadership of your group:

Circle one: a team one person

Other: _____

What is their role in the group?

Do they meet regularly? Circle one: Yes No

What happens at their meetings?

6. Does your prayer group have an intercessory ministry that prays for the success of your prayer meetings?

Circle one: Yes No

7. Does your prayer group have an outreach?

Circle one: Yes No

8. How often do you provide a Life in the Spirit Seminar?

_____ What format do you use?

Circle one: Weekly? Weekend? Other: _____

How many people attended each of the last two/three seminars your group sponsored?

How many began to participate in your group because of the seminar?

9. How many people in your group? _____
of men _____ # of women _____ # under 35 _____ # over 60 _____

Membership trend

over the past 12 months:

Circle one: up down fluctuating the same

over the past 5 years:

Circle one: up down fluctuating the same

Has there been a lot of turnover in the membership of your group in

the past year? Circle one: Yes No

the past 5 years? Circle one: Yes No

If so, where are those people now?

Would you say that *most* members joined your group in the

Circle only one:

past two years? first 5 years 10 years? 15 years?

10. How often do you meet?

Circle one: weekly monthly twice a month other: _____

Do you meet regularly besides your prayer meetings?

Circle one: Yes No

Prayer Meeting and Charisms

1. How would you rate your praise and worship?

Circle one: Outstanding Good Fair Poor

Do you have a music ministry? Circle one: Yes No

Can you give me an idea of the kinds of songs you sing?

Who leads the prayer meeting?

Who leads the praise and worship?

Can you give me an idea of the typical flow of your meeting?

2. What Charismatic gifts are operative in your prayer meeting?

Check as many as operative in your prayer meeting:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ expression of knowledge | _____ wisdom |
| _____ healing | _____ miracles |
| _____ teaching | _____ administration |
| _____ faith | _____ discernment |
| _____ tongues | What percentage pray in tongues? |

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ interpretation of tongues | |
| _____ prophecy | _____ other word gifts |

What do you believe that the Lord has been saying to your group through the prophecies and word gifts given?

What other gifts are regularly exercised in your meetings?

3. How frequently are teachings given in your prayer meetings?

What kind of teachings?

Who gives these teachings?

Circle one: members of the prayer group leadership team outside speakers

Other:

4. Does your prayer group pray regularly for personal needs and petitions of your prayer group members? Circle one: Yes No

How is this done?

Do you have a specific prayer ministry? Circle one: Yes No

If so, please describe:

Growth/Change

1. If your prayer group is small or not “strong and vibrant,” could your group benefit by merging with a stronger local prayer group? Circle one: Yes No

If no, what would make doing this difficult? _____

What would make this an attractive option? _____

2. Are there things that you feel are lacking in your group? Circle one: Yes
No

If yes, please explain:

3. Does your prayer group offer resources (books, tapes, training, etc.) to enhance or facilitate the growth of its members? Circle one: Yes No

What resources would be most helpful to your group at this time?

Check as many as apply:

_____ leadership training

_____ prayer ministry

_____ teaching resources

_____ inviting new people

_____ Life in the Spirit Seminars

_____ growth teaching

_____ successful prayer meetings

_____ healing prayer

_____ fostering charismatic gifts

other: _____

4. Does your prayer group connect in with other prayer groups or with diocesan-sponsored charismatic renewal events? Circle one: Yes No

If yes, what kinds?

If no, why not?

With regional or national events? Circle one: Yes No

If yes, which ones?

If no, why not?

With other kinds of events? Circle one: Yes No

Explain/describe:

The above "Charismatic Prayer Group Self-Assessment" was submitted by the "Strengthening Vibrant Prayer Groups Working Committee" in October 2003 and modified for use by Prayer Groups in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe by Fr. Daniel M. Balizan, Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal and Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM, Director of the Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico in December 2003.