

“Gifts in Others” Presentation Outline

(based on 45-50 minute class period)

This presentation is done in the context of prayer, preferably in the school chapel, with chairs arranged in semi-circle. Prayerful mood is set with music, subdued lighting, and candles.

- I. Welcome and introduction of presenting team
... set tone of prayer and explain briefly “why we are here.”
- II. Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (Many gifts ... one Spirit)
- III. Reflection on “Persons as Gifts”
- IV. Guided Meditation
... leads from Scripture and reflection to Jesus helping to identify talents in others
- V. Introduction to “Gifts in Others” Questionnaire ...
 - A. How to code ... include name and student code
 - B. Purpose is to become aware of the gifts you see in others
 - C. Confidentiality of responses
 - D. Results only shared with individual students
- VI. Students complete the Questionnaire
... Quiet, background music
- VII. Explanation of results sharing
 - A. Results will be shared through the mail (not through interview like “Story of my life
 - B. Computer scored, and results will indicate up to the top three qualities a student was named as having.
 - C. Everyone who wants to receive feedback, will receive it.
 - D. Recall purpose is to help people identify some gifts others see in them and to encourage the use of those gifts for others
 - E. Students who want to receive the feedback are asked to complete the form on the back of the questionnaire
- VIII. Presentation of questionnaires on altar
... with reverence and one at a time
... ask God to bless the people you have named
- IX. Close with Prayer of St. Francis

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,
but they all come from the same Spirit.
There are different ways to serve the same Lord,
and we can each do different things.
Yet the same God works in all of us
and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us
a special way of serving others.
Some of us can speak with wisdom,
while others can speak with knowledge,
but these gifts come from the same Spirit.
To others the Spirit had given great faith
or the power to heal the sick
or the power to work mighty miracles.

Some of us are prophets,
and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present.
Others can speak different kinds of languages,
and still others can tell what these languages mean.
But it is the Spirit who does all this
and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

The Word of the Lord

"Persons as Gifts"

We all love to receive gifts. They delight us, surprise us and let us know how much people care about us. But gifts are sometimes not what they seem. They surprise us. People are like gifts..see what I mean.

Large gift box. We see this box and hope it's for us because it's large and beautifully wrapped. We think about what we want that fits this box. We expect something great and pull something small out.

Small Box: we receive something small and wonder what good can be inside something so small. Pull out something valuable like a dollar bill.

Newspaper wrapped box: story of someone who wraps in newspaper. We have a negative image of the person, too cheap to buy paper. But inside is something personal.

Fannie Mae box: we think the perfect gift. Someone who knows what I like (you can use Oreos). But something plain is in the inside.

People are like gifts. If we look only at the outside and don't take time to really get to know the person, to open the gift box, we will miss so much. If we stay on the surface and judge only by the appearances, we might miss out on knowing very wonderful people and making great friends.

Another way that people are like gifts:

I love these **gift bags**, they are convenient and easy to open.

Tape wrapped box. These are so hard to open.

People are like this. Some are so easy to get to know they are so open and share so easily. Others are hard to get to know. Maybe they have been hurt and are closed up tightly. It takes time to get to know them. But often this is very worthwhile - We can find treasures inside boxes that surprise us.

The master at treating people as gifts and discovering the beauty of each person was Jesus.

Fisher men by sea - became apostles and martyrs.

Woman at well - an outcast brings her whole town to faith

Zaccheus - hated tax collector promises to give back the money

And as followers of Jesus, this is a part of our call -- to recognize the beauty and goodness of each person. And what we are going to do today will help us do just that.

Guided Meditation: Gifts in Others

This Bible passage reminds us that each of us is gifted differently by God. We are not all alike.

...

all we would have to do is look around to see that ...
some are shorter ... and some taller ...
some have brown hair ... others red ... or blonde ... or black ...
some have big noses ... some are small ...
some have dimples on their cheeks ... others don't

but the gifts of the Spirit go deeper than the skin, and that's what we want to see today ...
we want to go far beneath the surface
to see the gifts others have been given that we might not so easily see with our eyes.

To help us do this we will use a guided meditation.
In a guided meditation we simply let go a little
and we allow ourselves to be lead through images and thoughts and feelings.
At the end of a guided meditation we usually have a better insight into ourselves and other people.

Guided meditations require a certain maturity.
If you find this type of prayer too difficult for you,
please remain quiet until it is finished
and show respect to your classmates who will enjoy this prayer.

So I invite you to place yourself in a comfortable position.
Many people prefer to have both feet on the floor with hands gently placed on their knees.

Gently close your eyes and keep them closed until the end of the meditation.
This will help you to focus better on the images and feelings.
Your concentration will be broken and the meditation will lose its effect if you open your eyes.

With your eyes closed ... concentrate on your breathing.
Take a deep breath in ... hold it for a while ... and breath out.
Take a deep breath in ... hold it ... and breath out.
As you breath in ... breath in peace and calm
As you breath out ... breath out your worries and anxieties

...

With each breath you feel yourself becoming more relaxed and at peace ...
Allow yourself to relax more and more with each breath ..
until you feel completely at peace and relaxed.

...

And as you relax ... allow yourself in your mind's eye to go to your favorite place outside

... it could be by a lake ... or in the woods

... it could be in your back yard ... or by the ocean ..

And allow yourself to be in this place by yourself

... and you continue to feel at peace ... and your heart is happy.

... in your mind's eye see the beauty of this place around you.

... breathe in the fragrances of this place ... and you feel refreshed.

As you look around you, you begin to notice people coming toward you.

As they approach you ... you begin to see their faces and recognize them as people you know.

They are all classmates of yours.

The first ones to come are those you seem closest to ... those you know the best.

...

But the others come as well ... even the ones you really only know by name.

...

One by one they come until, finally, all of your classmates have come to be with you.

...

They remain silent, not wanting to break the peacefulness of this moment.

They simply offer smiles of friendship and support.

They have come to join you at this, your favorite place, and you are happy they are here.

...

But then another person approaches

... and you wonder who it might be, seeing that everyone in your class is already with you.

And as this man slowly approaches, you recognize him.

... It is Jesus.

...

Jesus, too, has come to join you

... As he comes close to you, he looks into your eyes, and he smiles

... It is a smile of friendship and support ...

... And Jesus continues to look deeply inside ... it's as though he looks into your heart ...

... And he smiles again ... and you feel loved and accepted.

You ask Jesus, "What are you looking at?" ...

And he responds, "You."

“I know that,” you say, “But what do you see?” ...

“With my eyes, I can see you for who you really are
... as loved and lovable
... as gift
... I see what’s inside of you that can come out if you want it to ...
... I see the things that you keep hidden inside ...
... I even see the things you don’t even know about yourself.”

“I wish I had eyes like that,” you say to Jesus.

“But you do,” Jesus says,
... “You can see inside if you want to.
... I can teach you how if you would like.”
....

“Please, I would like that.”

....

Jesus reaches out to touch you ... and suddenly you feel it ...
A warmth and peace you have never felt before.
... He touches your eyes and then your shoulders.
... It’s as though Love itself has embraced you and taken hold of you.

... You look around. And your classmates are still there ...
... But this time when you look at them it seems different ...
... It’s as though you are seeing something new ...
... It’s as though you have new eyes ... eyes like Jesus’ ... And it’s exciting ...
... When you look at people ... you can see through their eyes to their hearts
....

... And gently Jesus leads you to speak with your classmates ...
... But few words are necessary

... You want to try out these new eyes of yours, and you begin with your friends ...

... With these eyes, every time you look into someone else’s eyes,
you cannot help but see some gift they give to you or others.

... Look into the eyes of the classmate who is your closest friend ...
... Immediately in his or her heart you see acceptance and trust

... Look into another friend’s eyes
... and in his or her heart you find someone who really knows how to listen

... This continues ... through each person’s eyes you see into the heart
... and easily you can name the gift you see

... in some it’s trust,
... in others it’s a sense of humor,

... in others it's determination and hard work or respect
... in some you see the cheerful way they lift people up
... in others you see compassion or the ability to make a difference.

... You are amazed at what you can see ...
... You meet each classmate ... and in each person you see the gift...
...

... Once again you look into the eyes of Jesus
... And this time you see him as you have never seen him before
... And looking into Jesus' heart ... you know Love ... and you know Peace
...

... Jesus lets you know that he needs to leave ...
... At first you are a little sad ... you would like him to stay ..
... And you ask, "Do you want these eyes back ... these eyes that see so differently?"

"No," Jesus says, "Once you have these eyes you can't give them back.
They are yours to keep.
All you have to do is use them. They will be there."

As he walks away, you thank Jesus for this new gift.
And he reminds you, "All you have to do is use them. They will be there."

And you promise you will use them.
... Jesus walks off into the distance,
and you can no longer see him.

...

You realize that your classmates are no longer with you either.
It is just you in your favorite place ... peaceful and calm ...
But different now ... because you have new eyes ..
Eyes that see the heart.

And you promise yourself that you will use these eyes ...

...

Once again you focus on your breathing.
This time as you breath in, breath in strength and confidence.
And as you breath out, breath out all that keeps you from being yourself.

Continue to breath in strength and confidence,
and when you are ready to return to this place and time,
simply open your eyes ... new eyes given to you by Jesus.

by Father John Regan

GIFTS IN OTHERS QUESTIONNAIRE
Relationship, Leadership, and Spirituality

School: _____

Year: Fr. So. Jr. Sr.

DIRECTIONS: The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain your thoughts about the gifts your classmates have in relationship, leadership, and spirituality. Please think about the classmates you know and print the names of two students (with their student code) who best fit each of the following qualities. You may print the same name for as many qualities as you want. If you cannot think of a name for a quality, just put an "X" in the blank and go on. Your responses will be held confidentially and only shared anonymously.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Who reaches out to you in friendship?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>2. Who is very caring and compassionate?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>3. Who always maintains trust and confidences?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>4. If you had a personal problem, with whom would you like to discuss it?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>5. Who always has a positive attitude and has a way of lifting people up?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>6. Who is a leader who can make things happen?
a. _____
b. _____</p> | <p>7. Who has a close relationship with God?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>8. Who has the courage to stand up for what they believe?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>9. Who is respected most by his/her peers?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>10. Who by their actions reminds you of Jesus?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>11. Who has a strong desire to help others and make a difference in people's lives?
a. _____
b. _____</p> <p>12. Who enjoys being around people and has a good sense of humor?
a. _____
b. _____</p> |
|---|---|

Thank you for your cooperation!

The results for your school's *Gifts in Others Questionnaire* will be available to individual students. The student's results report will indicate up to the top three qualities a student was named as having by their classmates. Reports will only be sent to those who request it.

To request a copy of your report please complete the form below:

I would like to receive the feedback from the *Gifts in Others Questionnaire*. The results will list the qualities listed on the questionnaire that my classmates recognized in me. I understand that the results will be sent to me through the mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

School: _____

Your Student Code: _____