

## Different Gifts, Service, and Workings

**P**aul's choice of words, found in his instruction to the Corinthians, is telling. *Gifts* refer to certain actions of the Holy Spirit; *service* is assistance within the community; and *workings* points to the dynamic power of God. Together these realities might raise the questions: What do I have? What can I do? How can I do it? This is the lesson of Pentecost.

We all possess remarkable gifts and abilities, some of which we might not even know we have until we are called upon to exercise them. Many interpreters think Paul was referring here to the extraordinary spiritual gifts that became obvious during liturgical services—gifts like speaking in tongues. However, he expands this list to include gifts such as teaching, generosity, and showing compassion, for example (see Romans 12:6-8). Many of us possess these gifts. As for service, all we have to do is look around. We will find people in our families, our parishes, our workplaces who need our help, even if it is simple and limited. We cannot excuse ourselves with the response, “I can’t. I don’t have what it takes.”

The feast we celebrate today reminds us we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, working through our gifts and talents, to serve others. Everyone *can* do something; everyone *must* do something. Paul underscores this with the image of the body, which is made up of different parts. Either we work together doing what we can or the entire body suffers. Remember, we have the power of the Spirit.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- \* *In what ways do you use your gifts to serve others?*
- \* *Be grateful for the service of others.*



[Jesus] said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

JOHN 20:21