

## **GOD-GIVEN TALENT**

The Holy Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: “For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service in our serving ... Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; be affectionate to one another with brotherly love; outdo each other in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord.” (*Romans 12:4-11*)

While we were all created equal in the eyes of God, each one of us has been given special and unique abilities. These talents are God-given and, therefore, should be used to glorify God and to promote His Kingdom on earth. When we identify our individual gifts and use them to do the Lord’s work, we must also realize that each of our gifts cannot do the work of the Church alone. It is important that we be thankful for people whose talents are completely different from ours and that we be grateful that their abilities make up for our deficiencies. We can thus serve God by not only using our own gifts, but by encouraging our neighbor, with love and support, to use his.

**A prayer:** Almighty Father, You have given each of us special abilities and talents. Help us to use them, not for our own glorification, but for the good of Your Kingdom on earth. Grant us the ability to perfect our skills as well as the humility to accept the gifts of others. Bless us in our efforts to love and encourage one another, that we may work together for the good of your Church. Amen.