Charism: The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Catholic Education Summit
University of Dayton
July 14, 2014
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Who are we?

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What are we doing here?

In this session, we will talk about:

• what charism is

• why learning about the particular charism that enlivens your school is a good thing to do

• what you might do if your school is not explicitly identified with a particular charism

• how, in some practical ways, a charism can shape the way things happen in your school every day.
What is Charism?

A Gift of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12: 4 - 11
What is Charism?

A Gift of the Holy Spirit
given to a Founder
What is Charism?

A Gift of the Holy Spirit given to a Founder to build up the reign of God
Cruising and Charism
Why should we care?

Charism

A coherent means of expressing Catholic identity

A source of grace

A rationale for strategic decisions
What comprises a founding charism?

- **Spirituality**
  - How we live in and develop our relationship with God

- **Apostolic Approach**
  - How we serve the people of God by nurturing right relationships in the world

- **Manifestations**
  - How we recognize the charism

Source: Thomas F. Giardino, SM
An example: Marianist Charism

The experience of being
Called by God,
Formed by Mary,
Sent on mission
to embody the Good News in our time and place.

Source: Thomas F. Giardino, SM
An example: Marianist Charism

**Spirituality**
- Incarnational
- In alliance with Mary
- System of Virtues
- Prayer of faith

**Apostolic Approach**
- Forming persons and communities in faith for social transformation

**Manifestations**
- Community
- Faith
- Mary
- Mission
- Inclusivity

Source: Thomas F. Giardino, SM
But ... my school doesn’t have a charism! What can I do?

Most schools do, if you look hard enough.

Consider adoption!

Sponsorship
Practical Effects
(Again, some Marianist examples)

Characteristics of Marianist Education
• Education for Formation in Faith
• Integral, Quality Education
• Education in Family Spirit
• Education for Service, Justice, and Peace
• Education for Adaptation and Change
Practical Effects
(Again, some Marianist examples)

Homeroom Families
Comprehensive School Health
Extended Administrative Team

Meaningful Prayer Experiences
Expanded Schedule
Just Code of Conduct
Commitment to the Arts
Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers ...