

6. The Gift of Piety



“We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason ‘each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary’” (LS 65)

“Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress

of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good.” (LS 84)

Which places have been / are healing places for me? I thank God for them.

7. The Gift of the Fear of God



“We do not only exist by God’s mighty power; we also live with him and beside him. This is why we adore him.” (LS 72)

“In this universe, shaped by open and intercommunicating systems, we can discern countless forms of relationship and participation.

This leads us to think of the whole as open to God’s transcendence, within which it develops.” (LS 79)

Where have I experienced the greatness and grace of God in my life?

1. The Gift of Wisdom



“True wisdom, as the fruit of self-examination, dialogue and generous encounter between persons, is not acquired by a mere accumulation of data which eventually leads to overload and confusion, a sort of mental pollution.” (LS 47)

What do I associate with wisdom? How have wise people helped me to see the world through God’s eyes - including myself?

2. The Gift of Understanding



“Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” (LS 19)

Today I try not to get caught up in outward appearances, but to let the suffering and the joy sink deep into me.

3. The Gift of Council



“Peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually without once again falling into reductionism” (LS 92)

“A strategy for real change calls for rethinking processes in their

entirety, for it is not enough to include a few superficial ecological considerations while failing to question the logic which underlies present-day culture.” (LS 197)

Today I pray for an alert conscience that questions my values and patterns of behavior.

4. The Gift of Knowledge



“Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.” (LS 12)

“Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the

outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion.” (LS 76)

Today I will take time to praise God for the wonderful creation.

5. The Gift of Strength



“We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. These situations have caused sister earth,

along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course.” (LS 52-53)

Where do I find indifference and complacency within myself? I pray for the strength to take a small step toward change.