

Appendix for We Are Gifts: A Teachers' Year End Liturgy



Persons are Gifts

Persons are gifts which God sends me...wrapped!
Some are wrapped very beautifully;
They are very attractive when I first see them.
Others have been mishandled in the mail.
Some come in very ordinary wrapping paper.
Once in awhile, there is a "special delivery".

But the wrapping is not the gift. It is so easy to make that mistake.

Sometimes the gift is very easy to open up.
Sometimes I need others to help.
Is it because they are afraid?
Does it hurt?
Maybe they have been opened up before and thrown away!
Could it be that this gift is not for me?

I am a person.
Therefore I am a gift too—a gift to myself first of all.
God gave myself to me.

Have I ever looked inside the wrappings around me? Am I afraid to?
Perhaps I've never really accepted the gift I am.
Could it be that there is something else inside my wrappings than what I think there is?
Maybe I've never seen the wonderful gift that I am. Could God's gift be anything but beautiful?
I love the gifts I receive from people who love me—why not this gift from God?

And I am a gift to other persons.
Am I willing to be given by God to others? A person for others!
Do others have to be content with just the wrappings, and never be allowed to enjoy the gift?
Every meeting of two persons is an exchange of gifts.
But a gift without a giver is not a gift; it is an empty thing of relationship.

Friendship is a relationship between persons who see themselves as they truly are—
gifts of God to each other for others.

A friend is a gift, not just for me, but to others through me.
When I keep my friend and try to possess my friend, I destroy this person's "gift-ness".
If I keep someone's life for myself, I lose it. If I lose it for others, I keep it too.

Persons are gifts, gifts received and gifts given.
Friendship is a response of person-gifts to God.
Friendship is Eucharist.
-Author Unknown

