

## Right Judgment

“The evangelization of culture is all the more important in our times, when a “dictatorship of relativism” threatens to obscure the unchanging truth about man’s nature, his destiny and his ultimate good.”

*(Homily, Bellahouston Park)*

“...our divine Master has assigned a specific task to each one of us, a "definite service", committed uniquely to every single person. ‘I am a link in a chain, a bond of connexion between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace’.

*(Homily at Beatification Mass, Cofton Park, Birmingham)*

“If we have accepted the truth of Christ and committed our lives to him, there can be no separation between what we believe and the way we live our lives. Our every thought, word and action must be directed to the glory of God and the spread of his Kingdom.”

*(Homily at Hyde Park Prayer Vigil)*

How do I make decisions? What place do I give to the values of the Gospel or to the teachings of our faith?

Do I find time to examine my conscience or use other means of reflecting on what I do and discerning whether my actions reflect my faith?

How or when do I see faith in action - in others or in myself?

## Reverence

“Even amid the ‘busy-ness’ and the stress of our daily lives, we need to make space for silence, because it is in silence that we find God, and in silence that we discover our true self.”

*(Speaking to young people outside Westminster Cathedral)*

Do I make time for stillness and prayer?

Do I find a particular kind of prayer most helpful? *(eg rosary, scriptural prayer, a particular devotion, psalms, meditation, etc)*

How do I deal with distractions in prayer?

How do I show respect for God or others?



## Reflecting on the Gifts of the Spirit

*These pages take the 'Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit', as they appear in the Rite of Confirmation, and offer some reflection on them from the words of Pope Benedict xvi during his visit to the U.K. in 2010. What might the Holy Father be saying about them? Questions are offered to help us reflect on how we ourselves experience or live those gifts now, as we recall our Confirmation and prepare to celebrate the great feast of the Spirit at Pentecost.*

## Knowledge

"I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it." (Bl. John Henry Newman)

*(Homily at Beatification Mass, Cofton Park, Birmingham)*

“True wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for ‘both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts’.”

*(To educators, St Mary’s, Twickenham)*

“There is only one thing which lasts: the love of Jesus Christ personally for each one of you. Search for him, know him and love him... Put aside what is worthless and learn of your own dignity as children of God.”

*(To the young Catholics of Scotland: Homily, Bellahouston Park)*

How has my knowledge of God, of Jesus, of the teachings of the Church, grown?

Which do I consider most important for me to develop: knowing more about the Church, God and faith, or knowing God and Jesus in a personal way? How do I keep head and heart growing together?

## Understanding

“Not only does God love us with a depth and an intensity that we can scarcely begin to comprehend, but he invites us to respond to that love... God wants your friendship.”

“As you come to know [God] better, you find you want to reflect something of his infinite goodness in your own life.”

*(To students and school pupils, The Big Assembly, Twickenham)*

“Think of all the love that your heart was made to receive, and also love it is meant to give, after all we were made for love. This is what the Bible means when it says that we are made in the image and likeness of God. We were made to know the God of love, the God who is father, son and Holy Spirit, and to find our supreme fulfillment in that Divine love that knows no beginning or end.”

*(To young people outside Westminster Cathedral)*

How have I deepened in my awareness of God’s love for me?  
How do I show understanding, in the sense of compassion or empathy, for others?

## Wisdom

“One of the greatest challenges facing us today is how to speak convincingly of the wisdom and liberating power of God’s word”.

*(Homily at Westminster Cathedral)*

“I would suggest that the world of reason and the world of faith – the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief – need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilization”

*(Address to parliamentarians and public officials, Westminster Hall)*

How do I understand ‘wisdom’? What does it mean to ‘live wisely’?  
How does my faith make sense of my experience, or vice versa?  
Do I listen to God’s Word as a source of inspiration? Do I think of it as divine wisdom and human wisdom in dialogue?

## COURAGE

“True happiness is to be found in God. We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts.”

*(To school pupils & young people, St Mary’s, Twickenham)*

“I appeal in particular to you, the lay faithful, in accordance with your baptismal calling and mission, not only to be examples of faith in public, but also to put the case for the promotion of faith’s wisdom and vision in the public forum. Society today needs clear voices... Do not be afraid to take up this service to your brothers and sisters, and to the future of your beloved nation.” *(Homily, Bellahouston Park)*

What are the obstacles that most prevent me being a courageous witness to my faith?  
How might I be a ‘clear voice, standing up for truth, for what I believe is right or for others who are suffering?’  
Do I have the kind of courage that trusts in God alone, or do I cling on to other things for security?

## Wonder and Awe before God

“The quest for the sacred is the search for the one thing necessary, which alone satisfies the longings of the human heart.”

As we embark on this adventure we come to realize more and more that the initiative lies not with us, but with the Lord: it is not so much we who are seeking him, but rather he who is seeking us, indeed it was he who placed that longing for him deep within our hearts.”

*(To representatives of other faith traditions, Twickenham)*

What experiences have I had of wonder? How do I express this in prayer? For what do I praise or thank God most?  
What has my journey in search of God been like?  
When have I encountered him most powerfully?