Prepared for attendees of the Spiritual Direction Symposium by Fr. Cassian Edwards, O.S.B. 19 June 2025

Spiritual Direction and Self-Gift: Key Quotes

1

We want you to know, brothers, of the grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their profound poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For according to their means, I can testify, and beyond their means, spontaneously, they begged us insistently for the favor of taking part in the service to the holy ones, and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us through the will of God.¹

2

And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the multitude putting money in the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.²

3

...we urged Titus that, as he had already begun, he should also complete for you this gracious act also. Now as you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, see that you excel in this gracious act also.³

4

I say this not by way of command, but to test the genuineness of your love by your concern for others. For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.⁴

^{1 2} Cor 8: 1-5.

² Mk 12:44.

³ 2 Cor 8: 6-7.

^{4 2} Cor 8:8-9.

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedience to death, even death on a cross.5

...man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.6

For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.7

...young Symeon, as had been said, had found a spiritual director who gave him substantial help and whom he continued to hold in the greatest esteem such as to profess veneration for him, even in public, after his death.8

I would like to say that the invitation to have recourse to a good spiritual father who can guide every individual to a profound knowledge of himself and lead him to union with the Lord so that his life may be in ever closer conformity with the Gospel still applies for all priests, consecrated, and lay people, and especially youth. To go towards the Lord we always need a guide, a dialogue. We cannot do it with our thoughts alone. And this is also the meaning of the ecclesiality of our faith, of finding this guide.9

⁵ Philippians 2:6-8.

⁶ Gaudium et Spes, par 24.

⁷ Heb 4:15-16.

⁸ General Audience of Pope Benedict XVI, 16 September 2009.

⁹ Ibid.