

**Persons are Gift - reflection by Fr G Nintemann can
be found in 'Light out of Darkness' by
Kathleen O'Sullivan SSL**

John 17:24

**...Father I want those you have given me to be where
I am....**

Persons are gift.....
at least Jesus thought so: "Father, I want those you
have given me to be where I am."
Persons are gifts which the Father sends me wrapped.
Some are wrapped very beautifully;
They are very attractive when I first see them.
Some come in ordinary wrapping paper.
Others have been mishandled in the mail.
Once in a while there is a 'Special Delivery',
Some persons are gifts which are loosely wrapped;
Others very tightly.
But the wrapping is not the gift.
It is so easy to make this mistake.
Sometimes the gift is very easy to open,
Sometimes I need others to help.
Is it because they are afraid?
Maybe they have been opened up before and thrown
away.
Could it be that the gift is not for me?
I am a person,
therefore I am a gift too.
A gift to myself, first of all
the Father gave myself to me.
Have I ever really looked inside the wrappings?
Afraid to?
Perhaps I have never accepted the gift that I am.....
Could the Father's gifts be anything but beautiful?
I love the gifts which those who love me give;
Why not this gift from the Father?
And I am a gift to other persons.
Am I willing to be given by the Father to others?
A person for others?

Do others have to be content with the wrappings.....
never permitted to enjoy the gift?
Every meeting of persons is an exchange of gifts.
But a gift without a giver is not a gift;
it is a thing, devoid of relationship to a give or givee,
Friendship is a relationship between persons
who see themselves as they truly are:
gifts of the Father to each other, for others.....
brothers, sisters.

A friend is a gift not just to me
but to others through me.
When I keep my friend and possess him, I destroy his
'giftedness'.
If I save his life for me, I lose it;
If I lose it for others, I save it.
Persons are gifts, received and given , like the Son.
Friendship is the response of person – gifts to the
Father – giver.
Friendship is Eucharist.