

SEPTEMBER

Act of presence of God

1. *We often pride ourselves stupidly on the gifts and talents we have received ... “What do you have that you have not received from God? And if what you have, you have received, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”* (*Friends of God*, 112). Am I moved by true humility to cultivate within myself a deep gratitude to the Lord for all that I have received?

2. *He called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability* (Mt 25:14–15). Am I enthused by the task of putting the talents he has given me at the Lord’s service? Do I try to make them grow and develop?

3. *“I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master”* (Mt 25:23). I see around me people who have talents that could yield a lot if placed in the Lord’s service. Do I know how to value the talents of others, without being envious or making comparisons? What am I doing to help them improve them and put them at the service of God and others?

4. *“How wonderful would it be, even as we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters who orbit around us”* (*Fratelli Tutti*, 31). Do I try to develop this attentive look towards the people who live with me?

5. *Those who have met Christ cannot shut themselves in their own little world: how sad such a limitation would be!* (*Furrow*, 193). Do I try not to limit myself to living in a closed environment, but rather to open myself to all contexts in order to be close to people?

6. *Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your pallet, and walk”* (Jn 5:8). What am I doing to let myself be helped, so that my friends, colleagues and family members can correct me and give me good advice?

Act of contrition