

**Fifth Sunday after Easter
May 10, 2009**

A. Impolite questions: experience of asking impolite questions =

- how old are you?
- how much do you weigh?
- how much money do you have? or, how much in debt are you?

Early on we are taught not to ask those questions:

Another impolite question: What is your IQ? How smart are you? Add two more impolite questions: What is your EQ and your LQ?

B. Whether the questions are asked or not, we are of a certain age, we are of a certain weight, we do have reserves or are in debt, we do have an IQ; in fact, we also have an EQ (emotional quotient) and a LQ (love quotient)

1. IQ – our capacity to know

- basic question arising up out of the catechism: “Who made you?” (M. Oliver)
- branches on the vine are quite intelligent ... not self made ... cf. vine
- know how dependent they are ... if not attached – means death
- we humans: pretend we are autonomous – self-sufficient ... a big lie
- truth: totally dependent (air) ... totally gifted ... life pours into us
- God our Creator – gave us life through our mother

2. EQ – our capacity to feel – emotional quotient

- reference to matters of the heart: affectivity, sensitivity, sensibility
- key emotion: gratitude ... to have a grateful heart
- **PRAYER OF DAG HAMMARSKJOLD**
- grateful for the spring (asparagus, rhubarb)
- branches: life poured into them ... Thank you, Lord
- life of radical gratitude

3. LQ – our capacity to love (beyond knowing and feeling)

- “My Fair Lady” don’t talk of love, show me ... active concern
- call: to bear fruit ... produce good grapes to feed others
- call: life of generosity
- vineyard: no retention ... gave all away

**C. Impolite: to ask about age, weight, money ... maybe too, to ask about IQ, EQ, LQ don’t really have to ask – it will be obvious by the way we live
We need God’s grace to know the source of our gifts, to have a grateful heart, and to live lives of generosity**