

## *Things vs. Encounters*

For many  
grace is a thing;  
it is, however,  
an encounter.

A thing is cut off,  
apart from others;  
an encounter is a joining,  
a melding with another.

A thing exists  
in solitary isolation;  
an encounter is forged  
in mutual interaction.

Examining things,  
we look for causes;  
exploring encounters,  
we look at dynamics.

About things  
we ask: "What?"  
concerning encounters  
we inquire: "Who?"

Sacraments tend to be  
thought of as things.  
They should, however,  
be considered encounters.

So, too, with love:  
it is not  
" a many splendored  
*thing.*"  
It is, rather,  
a splendid  
encounter.

