

If we could gather together all the friends  
that have had a part in making us,  
it would be very easy for a stranger  
to tell what kind of persons we are;  
for my life as a person is the sum  
of what my spirit has wrought in me,  
plus what it has wrought in all my friends  
and what my friends have wrought in me.

-Bertha Conde

**If you have one friend who loves you  
you are protected  
safe from the world and your fears within . . .  
whatever you say or do from your conviction  
will pass from you . . . perhaps returning . . .  
even though you hurt now  
with pain suffered from the efforts  
your heart may retreat  
into the love and tolerance  
of the friend who takes you as you are  
the one who sees your faults  
and loves you for them  
who knows your virtuous strengths  
and grows from accepting your total person  
just as you grow and are protected  
by the sharing of the love  
which flows between the two of you . . .  
as you return that love  
you become the one friend  
of the friend who loves you**

— Diane Westlake

#### IF I QUESTION YOUR FRIENDSHIP

If I question your friendship  
It is only because I have lost friends  
In the process of searching for myself.  
And I'm afraid of losing you.  
If I doubt your love  
It is because I've been deceived.  
Please don't misread my fears;  
I'm not asking for sympathy -  
Just someone who will accept me as I am  
And care for me in spite of differences encountered  
Because I know and will understand  
While you search for yourself, also.

— Miriam Messerly

"One who multiplies joys, divides  
grief."

"One who understands our silence."

"A volume of sympathy bound in  
cloth."

"A watch which beats true for all time  
and never runs down."

But here is the definition that won the  
prize: "A friend—the one who comes in  
when the whole world has gone out."

**I am a different person,  
a better person because I know you  
It seems you are so peaceful,  
so alive and giving.  
Your friendship,  
your life is a generous act of love.  
Your kindness caresses me,  
your caring helps and heals me,  
your growth inspires me.  
My world is warmer  
because you laugh and love in it.  
Wonderful Friend,  
May the Lord of our world  
give a soft sunlight  
to the fields of your life.**  
John Powell, S.J.

**Let me not take for granted  
An act of kindness  
An offering of love  
The glory of human courage  
A sign of respect  
A phrase of beautiful music  
A decent soul  
The beauty of a blossom  
And above all,  
You.**

— Leonard Nimoy

**I must say, You are a friend.  
Let me say no more to you,  
for although I always recognized  
in friendship between men  
the noblest and highest relation,  
it was you who embodied  
this idea into its fullest reality  
by letting me no longer imagine,  
but feel and grasp, what a friend is.  
I do not thank you, for you alone  
have the power to thank yourself  
by your joy in being what you are.  
It is noble to have a friend,  
but still nobler to be a friend.**

— Richard Wagner