* As you reflect on your life, think about whether your religious tradition has or has not helped you to perceive some coherence, purpose, benevolence and direction in the universe. How has your tradition shaped your view of who God is, what the world is, and where you can expect to find beauty and joy?
* How do you understand the relationship between those who are in the first half of life and the elders Fr. Richard talks about in this chapter? How would you distinguish someone being an elder socially and an elder spiritually? How have elders in your life assisted you? Are there first-half-of-life people you know for whom you might be an elder? What might you offer to them?