

July 2, 2023



WARM-HEARTED HOSPITALITY

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt From Today's Gospel

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

MATTHEW 10:40

Reflection

There are many ways to live into Jesus' statement about who one receives. At first it may seem daunting to perceive everyone as a dear neighbor -- without exception. Yet, it is what God does. There is reverence, mutuality, acceptance, and inclusion invested here.

Most people appreciate a warm welcome or even a greeting, such as when entering a store and the clerk acknowledges your presence. A heartfelt greeting

as you enter the church or a person's home goes a long way to help you experience respectful acknowledgment and welcome.

Hospitality is a value, a gift given and received. Warm-hearted hospitality demonstrates respect for the dignity of the person, and can create a feeling of welcome, safety, well-being and eventually, a sense of belonging.

St. Joseph is a good model of warm-hearted hospitality. While there is no spoken word of Joseph's ever recorded, his welcoming acceptance of Mary and Jesus mirrors and proclaims the goodness of God. Given careful pondering, his trust in God and Mary's experience of God enabled him to accept Mary as she was; setting aside established norms, he married her. His was a warm, yet practical hospitality. He was a husband and father who put the well-being of another before his own -- witnessing to God's love, compassion, and mercy.

Would that you and I be inspired to the same quality of hospitality that flows without judgment and is life-giving in its welcome of all -- as one would welcome Jesus.



Boy reaching out
Photo by Jhonny Salas Brochero

For Pondering

- How hospitable am I in the flow of daily living?
 - How attentive am I to the invitation of the Word of God?
 - What is the tangible evidence of my own welcoming hospitality?
 - Who challenges my sense of hospitality today?
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