

MDR Committee Report – November 2019

Hospitality 101.

The word “hospitality” may mean different things to different people. For some, it is a code word for the committee in charge of bringing cookies, coffee, and snacks to a meeting. For others, hospitality may mean trying to remember which fork goes where at a formal table setting and vacuuming up every last dust bunny before your guests arrive. Inspired by recent articles in the Intermountain Catholic, I suggest each of us adopt the Benedictine definition of hospitality: to let all guests who arrive be received like Christ. (St. Benedict’s Rule for Monasteries, Chapter 53).

Hospitality is not about having the tastiest treats, the cleanest house, or the shiniest silver. It is about treating each person with genuine warmth and with dignity. A culture of council hospitality starts with leaders but is the work of each of us. If you have worked hard to attract a new member to your women’s group, or if a brave woman comes to her first event on her own, have your hospitality be your hallmark. Have her remember how well she was treated and how she felt included by all, and don’t have her leaving feeling unwanted, unwelcomed, and unappreciated.

Below I have linked two recent articles by Marie Mischel. The first, *In Search of Belonging*, is heartbreaking and eye-opening. One cannot help but recall times in your own life when you have felt left out and also those times when you have been unwelcoming yourself. In the second article, *Warm Welcome*, Marie describes times where she has been welcomed and cites her recent experience covering the Council Sunday events at Blessed Sacrament parish. Thanks for the reminder that we can all be more hospitable, Marie.

Submitted by,

Amy Kennedy, MDR Committee Chair

In Search of Belonging: <http://icatholic.org/article/in-search-of-belonging-55813080>

Warm Welcome: <http://icatholic.org/article/warm-welcome-42013113>