



## “Hospitality”

In this week's readings, we see examples of age-old values: service, stewardship and contemplation. Abraham drops everything and welcomes three strangers into home. Mary of Bethany sits at the feet of the Lord, clinging to His every word. Her sister Martha occupies her time with the business "playing the perfect hostess" - with a little resentment thrown in for good measure.

Hospitality - making others feel welcomed and at home - is actually a gift that originates in God and which He offers to us. But the welcoming is a two-way street. We discover that hospitality is much more than being "hospitable." Hospitality is being present to the

moment, being present to one another in ways that go beyond mere servitude.

We are the ones who must welcome God into our lives. We are the ones who must welcome each other. True faith is to be like both Mary and Martha: to be welcoming and to be welcomed.

Listening and service go hand in hand, and we need to spend a little time communicating with each other: listening and recognizing and appreciating one another. It is only then that we will grow in the realization of God's presence in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

All Christians are called to be listeners of the Word - something we do each time we gather at Liturgy and listen to the proclamation of the Word. We are also called to service of our neighbour, which we do as we go forth from the Table of

the Lord to return to our busy lives. In our dealings with one another, we must touch the most fundamental needs of our humanity and help each other to see how uniquely the gift of Jesus and His Gospel fulfil those needs. That is true hospitality



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