

Tips for the Spirituality of Hospitality

Hospitality is spiritual practice!

- By welcoming others we reflect God's welcoming nature. Being hospitable allows us to grow into the fullness of who God created us to be!
- In a time of divisiveness, when empathy is being labelled by some as "toxic", hospitality and welcome are an important counternarrative that witnesses to God of unconditional love in ways that people can experience.
- We don't practice hospitality merely because God commands it, but because God has first welcomed and love us. We've been welcomed, now we need to do the same for others.
- As we grow and deepen our relationships with one another, we grow closer to God. Likewise, as we grow in our relationship with God, this will bring us closer to other people. This is true communion!

Important Things to Remember:

- Lead with curiosity rather than presumption. Asking questions shows interest!
 - "Where did you grow up?"
 - "Did you grow up going to church? What denomination? What was it like?"
 - "What brought you to our church today? Did someone invite you? Are you from the neighbourhood?"
- If hospitality feels challenging, that's because sometimes it is. We all get better with practice. Don't be afraid to take the risk of trying to connect with someone new.
- Invite God into your practice. Pray if you feel nervous or don't know where to start or who to talk to. God is always with you and the Spirit will guide you!
- In the church, we are meant to work as a team and learn from each other as we develop the practice of hospitality.

Practical Suggestions:

- Make it easy for people to learn about and connect with the community with informative literature about the church, a sign-up sheet for e-blasts/newsletters, and let them know the ways they can be involved in the parish.
- If you meet someone who is looking for particular information or has things in common with someone else in the parish, make an introduction and help establish further connection

Scriptures on Hospitality:

- John 1:35-39
- Genesis 18:1-14
- Hebrews 13:2
- Luke 10:38-42
- 1 Kings 19:1-8

Reading Recommendation:

Invite Welcome Connect by Mary Foster Parmer

Submitted by the Congregational Development Department of the Diocese of Toronto

