



Stewardship is a grateful response to God's love for us.

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” (Mt. 25:35). Jesus Christ teaches that whenever we welcome one of the least of our sisters and brothers, we welcome Christ Himself. We are all prodigal children longing to be welcomed home. In a hospitable parish, parishioners and guests feel they belong and are appreciated. This is especially true if they were ever absent from the Church. Hospitality leads to a sense of ownership among parishioners. This ownership and personal involvement fosters a sense of “belonging.” When parishioners experience a warm and sincere welcome, they in turn become open to give themselves to others. God is love. God gives His love to each one of us. As God loves us, He calls us to love one another. When we are recipients of such love from others, we are attracted to follow this example. When others welcome us, we are open to welcoming others. This desire to welcome others is yet another gift of God.

Reflections:

- What can I do to make my parish a welcoming and hospitable place of worship ?
- Do long-standing members of our parish feel welcome and involved ?
- When was the last time I introduced myself to a new or long-standing parishioner ?
- Do the parish groups I belong to recognize their responsibility to practice hospitality and welcoming ?

Hospitality in Action:

- Put the “Prayer for Our Parish” into daily action.
- Call the Parish office and volunteer as a Greeter before Mass on Sundays.
- Meet new parishioners by switching where you sit in church.
- Extend your hospitality into your workplace and community.
- Take time to truly listen when talking with others.
- Put God's love into practice in our parish and community.

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