

THEME – HOSPITALITY

Scripture speaks frequently about the importance of a family's hospitality because of its life-giving love that nourishes weary souls and heals broken hearts.

Meditation

From Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia

Led by the Spirit, the family circle is not only open to life by generating within itself, but also by going forth and spreading life by caring for others and seeking their happiness. This openness finds particular expression in hospitality, which the word of God eloquently encourages: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" (Heb 13:2). When a family is welcoming and reaches out to others, especially the poor and the neglected, it is "a symbol, witness and participant in the Church's motherhood." Social love, as a reflection of the Trinity, is what truly unifies the spiritual meaning of the family and its mission to others, for it makes present the kerygma [teachings] in all its communal imperatives. The family lives its spirituality precisely by being at one and the same time a domestic church and a vital cell for transforming the world.

1. What are some specific ways in which our family practices hospitality within our home? In what ways is hospitality challenging for our family, and in what ways does it help our family grow in grace and happiness?
2. Have we ever thought of hospitality in terms of welcoming the other as Christ? How might this calling of Christian hospitality change our practices of hospitality?
3. What are some ways as a family to grow in hospitality? How might we open our home more to the poor, lonely, brokenhearted and neglected? Is there someone who has a rough family life that could use some time around our family for the support and encouragement that love offers?

Scripture Reading - Psalm 84:9-13

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
listen, God of Jacob.
O God, watch over our shield;
look upon the face of your anointed.
Better one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere.
Better the threshold of the house of my God
than a home in the tents of the wicked.
For a sun and shield is the LORD God,
bestowing all grace and glory.
The LORD withholds no good thing
from those who walk without reproach.
O LORD of hosts,
blessed the man who trusts in you!

Family Project

Invite acquaintances from your parish or neighborhood over for a meal, and spend some time socializing afterward. Invite them to join you for family prayer, too.