

# LIVING FAITH

## A RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time- September 4, 2016



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

### The Gospel for Today

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

### Reflection on the Gospel

What does it mean for us to be disciples of Jesus today? The Gospel we hear today encourages us to think about it, and to carefully consider ways in which we can follow Jesus in our everyday lives. The Gospel also talks about giving up your possessions. A good question for a disciple to ask is this:

- Do I control my possessions?
- ... or do my possessions control me?



Our possessions are not always material things, like clothing or iPods or iPads or cars. Disciples have many possessions that we can place at the service of others. We may have experiences that might make us able to help someone who is in a situation like we once were. Our education can be placed at the service of others. Our time is another gifts that we can offer to others. Today... think about the gifts that you have, gifts that, if you gave them away, could actually enrich others, and so enrich you.



## GREET GUESTS AT THE DOOR

Don't allow guests to linger outside the door, ringing the bell, wondering if you're even home because you've gotten sidetracked with dishes, laundry, your hair, etc. Watch for them to pull up when expecting them so you can greet them at the door and not leave them outside waiting.

## OFFER A DRINK

After you give your initial greetings to guests, don't forget to offer them something to drink, whether it be water, tea, or whatever else you have.



## SERVE FOOD OR DRINK

One really simple way to make guests feel welcomed in your home is to serve food. People often talk and make friendships over food.

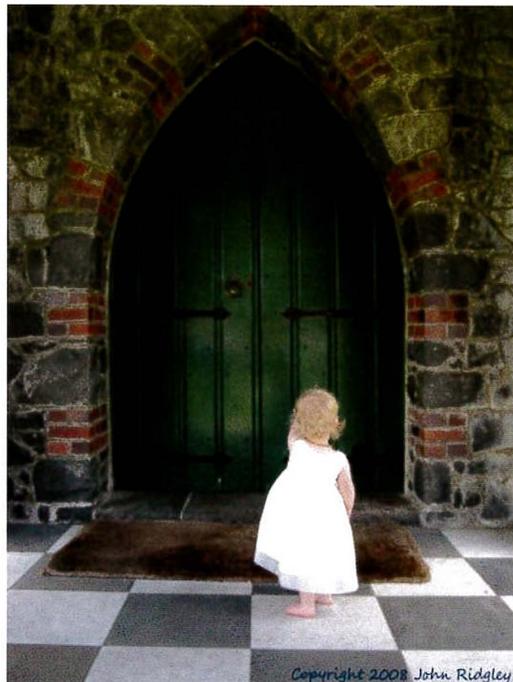


## WELCOMING GUESTS A FAMILY CONVERSATION

### HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY WELCOME GUESTS?

### WHAT SIGNS OF WELCOME DO YOU SHOW?

### ON WHAT OCCASIONS DO YOU INVITE GUESTS?



### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL TO SERVE WHEN YOU HAVE GUESTS?

### WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE GUESTS?



## PLAN TO START A CONVERSATION

Before your guests arrive, think of a topic you can talk to them about and just start a conversation.



## TAKE A HAND

If you're meeting a guest or guests in your home, extend your hand and shake it firmly, much like you would someone you meet out in public.

This is a great physical way to break the ice.

If your guest is a friend, a hug can be a sign of welcome.

## SEND THEM HOME WITH A TREAT

A great way to say, "Thanks for the lovely visit; come again!" is to prepare a goodie bag to give your guests when they are leaving.





## THE CHURCH TEACHES WELCOMING STRANGERS IS ONE WAY IN WHICH WE SHOW THAT WE ARE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



YOU MIGHT WISH TO READ SOME OF THESE PASSAGES FROM SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

- **Deuteronomy 10: 19** You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
- **Leviticus 19:34** The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.
- **Matthew 5:43-44** You have heard that it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy'. But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you.
- **Matthew 25:40** Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren you did it to me.
- **Romans 13:8** Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- **Romans 13:10** Love does no wrong to a neighbour, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- **Acts 10:34** Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- **3 John 1:5** Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you; they have testified to your love before the church. You do well to send them on in a manner worthy of God; for they began their journey for the sake of Christ, accepting no support from non-believers. Therefore we ought to support such people, so that they may become co-workers with the truth.
- **Luke 10:27** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.
- **Hebrews 13:1** Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.
- **Colossians 3:11** In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.
- **Matthew 25: 35** I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
- **Romans 12:13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

## DISCIPLESHIP AT THE BASILICA WELCOMING THE STRANGER

The practice of Hospitality is as old as time. Throughout the Bible, we can find scores of examples of how hospitality bridged the gap between strangers and community. While the word "hospitality" is derived from the Latin "hospes" meaning "host", "guest" or "stranger", hospitality has grown, over time, to reflect the way in which individuals and communities extend their welcome to guests, visitors and even more importantly, strangers.

Hospitality has always been an integral part of the Parish of the Basilica- Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Recently, our Parish has rekindled visible signs of Hospitality at our liturgical celebrations. We have established a group of Hospitality Ministers who, stationed at all entrances of the Basilica, reach out to our faithful parishioners and strangers alike, to welcome them, and to offer a warm and inclusive environment in which to celebrate. It is our hope that our welcoming gestures will help all who cross our threshold feel valued and open to participate more wholeheartedly in our liturgical celebrations, and indeed, our Parish. Our Hospitality Ministry, along with the many ministries of our Basilica Parish, is striving to create a Parish alive in faith, in fellowship and in community.

Our Basilica Parish is endeavouring to live the joy of the Gospel. We are basing our efforts on acts of Hospitality that create "solidarity", "oneness" and "belonging" ...all values found in Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013).

Visit us: [www.thebasilica.ca](http://www.thebasilica.ca)



### HOSPITALITY MINISTRY IS FOR EVERYONE! WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Think like a visitor. How would you like to be welcomed?
- Say hello to someone you don't know, or don't know well.
- Turn around and offer a stranger a hymn book.
- Sit in the middle of the seat so that someone else can sit down easily.
- Shake a hand.
- Ask the name of someone you don't know.
- Pick up two bulletins instead of one.
- Introduce a guest to the pastor.



The Archdiocese thanks the Basilica Hospitality Ministry for submission of this article.