COURAGEOUSLY Living the Gospel

Welcoming You With Open Arms

www.WelcomeOneAnother.org

COUR AGEOUSLY Living the Gospel



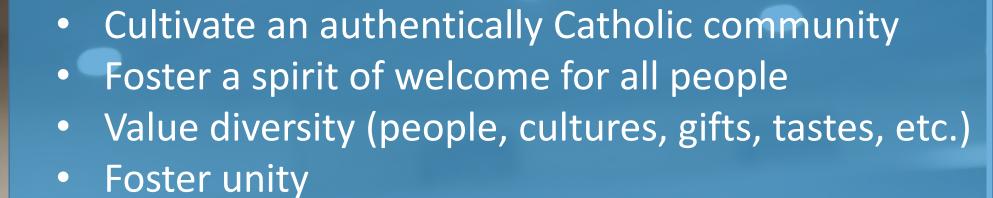


Welcoming with Open Arms means thinking about Welcoming Family to a Feast, Making Room for Others and Preparing for Honored Guests

Think About Solidarity



Every minister is a minister of hospitality.





Hospitality is...

- Making room for people as they are; without judging; without meaningless obstacles.
- Valuing people; listening; encouraging.
- Genuine human gestures.
- First impressions that draw people back for more.
- Patience as people adjust and find their niche.
- Continuing expressions of appreciation and welcome even after many years.



Forming a Culture of Hospitality

- Pray for openness and a spirit of patience and welcome.
- Lead by example.
- Take time to be prepared.
- Pay attention to gestures and verbal communications.
- Use names, be sincere & kind.
- Be helpful.
- Encourage full participation.

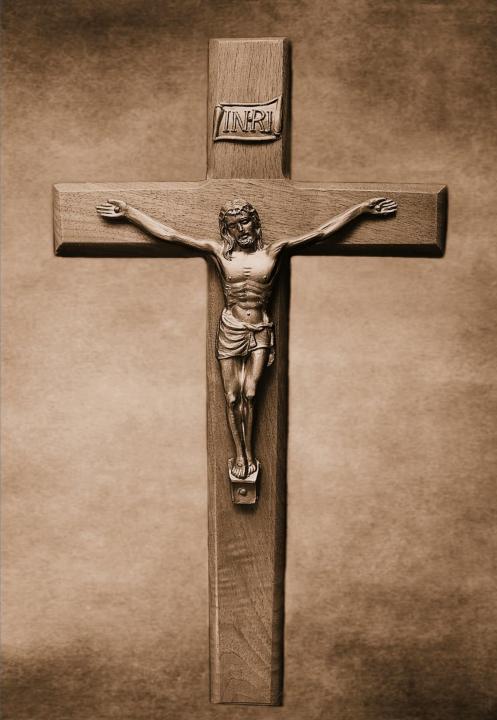
Forming a Culture of Hospitality

- Be sincere in welcoming "old timers."
- Give second chances freely & abundantly.
- Forgive people's awkwardness.
- Don't tire of welcoming people.
- Remember human gestures speak louder than words.

WELCOME.

Forming a Culture of Hospitality

- Relax, put your best forward.
- Don't put on airs; be natural.
- Focus on one-to-one, real face time.
- Use simple and small gestures.
- Make impressions that build lasting relationships.
- Don't underestimate the difficulties people are carrying.
- Be grateful, be patient.





Simple Transformations

- Listen to stories, don't give people forms.
- Discover the gifts they wish to share, don't tell them what they can do for you.
- Welcome new people in small groups with one-on-one time.

Checklist of Hospitality

- Is your campus inviting?
- Are people greeted warmly as they arrive?
- Who is responsible for welcoming?
- Is your bulletin a tool of good news & welcome or is it cluttered and difficult to read?
- Are Liturgical Ministers leaders of welcome?
- Is your parish a "mean free" zone?



What Makes for Good Welcome

- Enthusiasm that is contagious.
- Respecting human limits.
- Making things easier and lighter.
- Being aware: Worship and raising a family is more important than volunteering.
- Encourage talk about spiritual and human needs.



What Makes for Good Welcome

- Joy and passion for Faith.
- Positive communication of mission & goals.
- Conversations that engage the person.
- Spiritual growth is valued and encouraged.
- Genuine friendliness and encouragement.
- Personal expressions of appreciation.
- Expressions of welcome are a habit.
- Freedom to adjust and do what you do best.



