



“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

HEBREWS 13:2

WE WERE EACH CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD;

we are his and he longs for us to remain in his presence and bask in his limitless love. In response to the many gifts and blessings he bestows on his beloved children he asks simply that we love him and love those he created. The central teaching of the Gospel calls us to love and serve Christ and the most beautiful way we can live out this call is by service to others. As people of first contact, you have a unique opportunity to follow Jesus' command to love and to serve. In Matthew's Gospel we read, 'Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Hospitality is the attitude and behavior that allows us to welcome others and prepare them to receive the love and service God intends us to share with them.



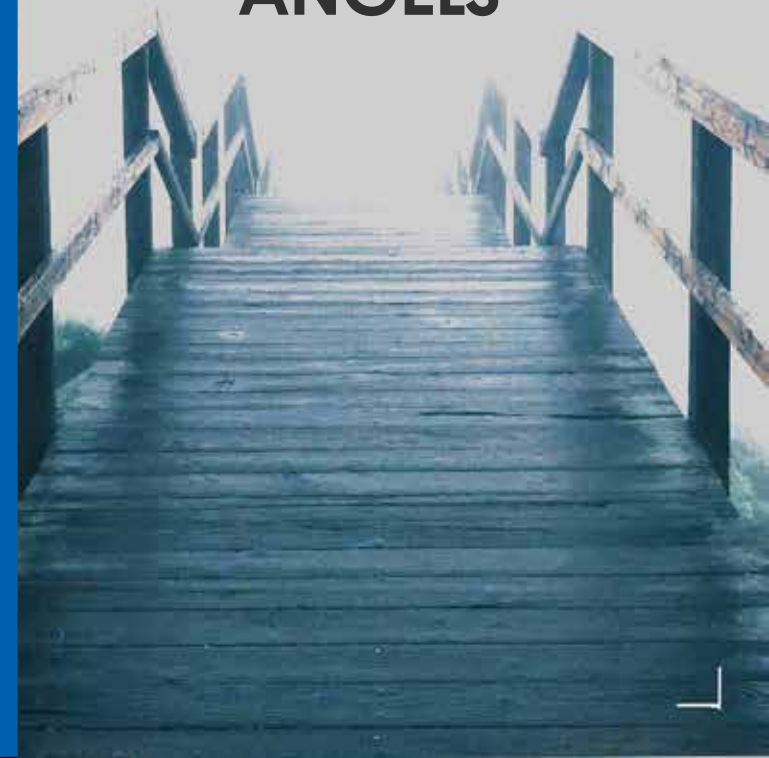
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**ENTERTAINING
ANGELS**





To be in the position of a first contact person is to be blessed and serve as a blessing to others. Through our work we serve Jesus Himself – and if we're looking for him, we will come to see Christ in each person we meet. As we begin to recognize the unique ministry naturally associated with our position in the parish we will begin to greet each guest with the thought; "Jesus how can I be your hands and feet this day? Jesus, show me who needs you today and allow me to introduce you!"

Hospitality is how we draw others in and help them become open to the gifts of the Father. It is perhaps one of the most important tools in the New Evangelization but it is a skill and an art. During this training we will focus on four areas necessary to develop the attitudes and behaviors that will allow us to make our parishes places of rich, warm, Christ like hospitality. No matter what your role in the parish might be, you have a unique way to love, serve and build the Kingdom here on earth. Through this unique one day training,

WHAT IS THE TRAINING FOR?

Quite simply, we're here to prepare you to receive others in the name of Jesus Christ. We want you to walk away feeling greater confidence about sharing Christ with whoever might walk through the parish doors, even during brief interactions.

WHAT DOES THE DAY OF TRAINING LOOK LIKE?

The training consists of four main sessions and will include time to practice the techniques you've learned. Throughout the day, you'll have an opportunity to reflect, share and network. At the end of each session you will choose 2-3 ideas and practices that you will act on when you get back to your parish.



TRAINING OUTLINE

Each of the four training section will help you develop the attitudes and behaviors that will allow you to serve the people of Christ in a compassionate, Christ like and powerful way.

CALLED TO HOLINESS - The day begins with a look at our unique calling to live a life that is holy and pleasing to the Lord. We will focus on our gifts of brokenness, perspective and surrender considering how each one provides an opportunity to allow Christ to work through us and draw us closer. We will also take a look at the roots of hospitality in Church Tradition and Sacred Scripture to help us understand how our hospitality can be a beautiful and powerful fruit of our holiness.

CALLED TO SHARE - During section two of our training we will focus on understanding and spreading the Gospel message. We will focus on the gifts of evangelization, sharing the gospel with visitors and prayer. Authentic hospitality is a reflection of Christ's love shining through us. In order to understand and share that love we must be strongly connected to Christ through prayer. We will focus on personal, formal and spontaneous prayer and take some time to practice praying with and for others.

CALLED TO SERVE - Christ came to earth to serve rather than be served. During the third segment of our training we will learn to imitate Christ's service by focusing on the gifts of joy, service and peace. Special attention will be given to resolving conflict, dealing hospitably with difficult people and offering and accepting forgiveness.

CALLED TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH – The final segment is where we put all the pieces into practice. Participants will develop and practice skills for sharing the Gospel with those they meet. Using the gifts of connecting, comforting and mercy we will have an opportunity to plan and practice interactions both in person and on the phone.