

## **Stewardship**

### **Article 7 of 8**

In this season of hope and joy I pray that the grace of our Savior has found its way into your heart. Even better, I pray that the grace of our Savior has found in you an open heart to receive His personal love; a love so great that the Son of God was made man and born among us. An open heart for the Lord is about practicing Divine Hospitality.

Hospitality is an openness and eagerness to receive another and it is Divine when the other is God. Such is the hospitality that we are called to as Christians, especially during this time of year. It is almost unthinkable that our God “knocks” that he might be received into our hearts.

Again, it is amazing that “God comes to us and asks us to receive him.” Divine Hospitality is not easy to achieve, just as it wasn’t when Christ was born into the world some 2000 years ago. As there was “no room for him in the inn” when Joseph and Mary searched for a place to birth the Savior, so now he finds many hearts inhospitable to receive his gifts and love. Nonetheless, he continues to knock on the door of our hearts, a door that can only be opened from the inside.

Often times inhospitality to Christ is not hostile; rather, we are too caught up in the cares of life and find our hearts stressed and at “full occupancy.” Hospitality requires a space for the other. When we fill up our lives with so many things, often good things, we find the “inn” of our heart full and unable to accommodate the presence of the Lord.

My challenge to you is to practice Divine hospitality. First, make a conscious effort to involve your family and self in less activities. Open a space of time for the Lord that he may come to you and find a home in your heart. It is the greatest of all joys, but it begins by saying no that we might say, YES.

Become a person of Divine hospitality by committing to more prayer, daily Mass, Adoration or even a Holy Hour. Commit yourselves to learning more about the Son of God who loves you so much through our adult catechesis programs.

Yes, Divine Hospitality is all that the Lord needs to enter more profoundly into our lives. What a gift to receive such a guest! What joy we might experience in our lives!

In Christ’s Love,  
Fr. Steve