

July 21-22, 2007

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:1-10

Colossians 1:24-28

Luke 10:38-42

Considerate hospitality and an attentive heart make for pregnant opportunities. In our selection from Genesis we hear of Abraham's hospitality toward his surprise 'visitors' (who we readers secretly understand to be God himself) and because of his generosity of hospitality is blessed with the promise of progeny. We are not talking 'fast food' here, sounds like the visitors had to settle down and get comfortable while Abraham and Sarah sifted flour and made bread, slaughtered and roasted a steer and milked the cow for milk and curds (cheese). Sounds like an all day affair! Either Abraham had a deep-seated appreciation for hospitality or he was desperate for company. In any case, his honoring of the requirements of hospitality, of diminishing himself out of respect for his visitors, became a source of fresh life for he and his wife. In The Gospel of Luke we hear the endearing story of Martha and Mary being visited by Jesus and Martha laboriously attending to the details of hospitality while Mary sat on her cushion listening to Jesus. Who amongst us would not be peeved at Mary (not the Blessed Mother by the way) for not helping with the demands of hospitality, after all, in her day that was a woman's place...to serve the guests. While Jesus acknowledges the service of Martha in her hospitable efforts, it is Mary who is singled out for her attentive listening to Jesus. Thus, we who live in a very busy world and are surrounded with the temptations of insularity and selfishness are reminded of the need for these two qualities: attentive hearing of the word of God and hospitable kindness toward others. It is not enough to simply hear the word of God, one must do something with it. Alas, simply doing kindness without a Jesus-centeredness can lead to selfishness and tasks for tasks sake. In these languishing days of late July, some decent food for thought.

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community for these late July days. If you have recently moved to our community, please check out the material on the Concierge Shelves, which also include Parish Registration Forms. Bulletins have news of events coming up, please accept one on your journey home. A Special word of THANKS and GRATITUDE to all who participated in this past week's Galilee By The Sea – Summer Event...for three magical nights you gathered and gave fresh life to the teachings, words and stories of Jesus...THANK YOU! In these mid-summer weeks, remember, you are loved. FKB