



Seeds of Hospitality

No 80

INSTITUTE OF HOSPITALITY

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Hospitality ♦ Compassion ♦ Respect ♦ Justice ♦ Excellence



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No. 80
December 2016

Fellow Hospitallers,

It is that time of the year again where we who are Christians are preparing for the feast of the Birth of Christ and everybody else is preparing for a special celebration. Usually preparation for any task needs some time for quiet and reflection. Yet it seems most people whatever their beliefs or non-beliefs are in a tizzy about Christmas. *"Have you got everything done yet? "Christmas is such a busy time" "I'll be glad when it's all over" "I've nothing done yet" "I have another party tonight"* We are all familiar with these sentences.

Personally I like the whole atmosphere around Christmas. The 4 weeks of Advent preparing us and challenging us for the great event on Christmas Day. The expectation; The thoughtfulness of the giving and the receiving of presents; The focus on people who will not have a Happy Christmas because of circumstances in their lives. ***"There was no room in the Inn"*** becomes a real issue and not just a story we read about at Christmas. How can we enjoy Christmas and ignore the plight of people who have nothing? Where are our Values?

The story of Christmas is about giving. Jesus came into the world with nothing. They had no special place booked so that Jesus' Mother Mary would be able to deliver her child safely. ***"There was no room in the Inn"*** The Nativity story is about love, compassion and hope. Jesus came into a very unfriendly world and was born in a stable. The Stable became part of Jesus' life and He lit it up with love.

The poor shepherds came to worship Him and He gave them love and most importantly He gave them Hope. They needed "Hope" as these were difficult times to be poor in Palestine. Jesus, Mary and Joseph were also visited by the Wise men who came from the East guided by a Star. They brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. There are many theories about the meaning or usefulness of these gifts but I think they would have been useful to the Holy Family in their travels.

Like Jesus' time our world is full of contradictions and can be a very difficult place for anyone to be born into and live in. There are so many wars. Everyday we see the horrors of war on our television or read in our newspapers. People are dying for what? People are being displaced from their homes for what? People are called refugees, asylum seekers for what? People are homeless. Why?

The message of Christmas is ironically Peace! Peace to all people of goodwill! Am I bringing Peace to the people I meet? Am I bringing Hope to the people I meet? Am I bringing Love to the people I meet? Am I bringing the Values of Hospitality, Compassion, Respect, Justice and Excellence to everything I do and to everyone I come in contact with. Life is difficult and we are only asked to do our best, which I am sure most of us do. Thank you for everything you do in the name of John of God and may you have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas and many Blessings in the 2017.

Happy Christmas!

Gregory

Christmas Scout



In spite of the fun and laughter, 13 year old Frank Wilson was not happy. It was true, he had received all the presents he wanted, and he enjoyed the traditional Christmas Eve reunions with relatives for the purpose of exchanging gifts and good wishes but Frank was not happy because this was his first Christmas without his brother, Steve, who during the year, had been killed by a reckless driver. Frank missed his brother and the close companionship they had together. He said good-bye to his relatives, and explained to his parents that he was leaving a little early to see a friend, and from there he could walk home. Since it was cold outside, Frank put on his new plaid jacket. It was his FAVORITE gift. He placed the other presents on his new sled, then headed out, hoping to find the patrol leader of his Boy Scout troop. Frank always felt understood by him. Though rich in wisdom, his leader lived in the Flats, the section of town where most of the poor lived. His patrol leader did odd jobs to help support his family. To Frank's disappointment, his friend was not home. As Frank hiked down the street toward home, he caught glimpses of trees and decorations in many of the small houses. Then, thru one front window, he glimpsed a shabby room with limp stockings hanging over an empty fireplace. A woman was seated nearby....weeping. The stockings reminded him of the way he and his brother had always hung theirs side by side. The next morning, they would be bursting with presents. A sudden thought struck Frank--he had not done his "good deed" for the day. Before the impulse passed, he knocked on the door. "Yes?" the sad voice of a woman asked. Seeing his sled full of gifts, and assuming he was making a collection, she said, "I have no food or gifts for you. I have nothing for my own children." "That's not why I am here," Frank replied. "Please choose whatever presents you would like for your children from the sled." "Why, God bless you!" the amazed woman

answered gratefully. She selected some candies, a game, a toy airplane and a puzzle. When she took the Scout flashlight, Frank almost protested.

Finally, the stockings were full. "Won't you tell me your name?" she asked, as Frank was leaving. "Just call me the Christmas Scout," he replied. The visit left Frank touched, and with an unexpected flicker of joy in his heart.

He understood that his sorrow wasn't the only sorrow in the world. Before he left the Flats, he had given away the rest of his gifts. His plaid jacket

had gone to a shivering boy. Now, Frank trudged toward home, cold and uneasy. How could he explain to his parents that he had given his presents away? "Where are your presents, son? Asked his father as Frank entered the house. "I gave them away," he answered in a small voice. "The airplane from Aunt Susan? Your new coat from Grandma? Your flashlight? We thought you were happy with your gifts." "I was.....very happy," Frank said quietly. "But, Frank, how could you be so impulsive?" his mother asked. "How will we explain to the relatives who spent so much time and gave so much love shopping for you?" His father was firm.



"You made your choice, Frank. We cannot afford any more presents." With his brother gone, and his family disappointed in him, Frank suddenly felt dreadfully alone. He had not expected a reward for his generosity, for he knew that a good deed always should be its own reward. It would be tarnished otherwise. So he did not want his gifts back. However, he wondered if he would ever again recapture joy in his life. He thought he had this evening...but it had been fleeting. He thought of his brother.....and sobbed himself to sleep. The next morning, he came downstairs to find his parents listening to Christmas music on the radio. Then the announcer spoke: "Merry Christmas, everyone! The nicest Christmas story we have this morning comes from the Flats. A crippled boy down there has a new sled this morning left at his house by an anonymous teenage boy. Another youngster has a fine plaid jacket, and several families report that their children were made happy last night by gifts from a teenage lad who simply called



himself the 'Christmas Scout'. No one could identify him, but the children of the Flats claim that the Christmas Scout was a personal representative of old Santa Claus himself. Frank felt his father's arms go around his shoulders, and he saw

his mother smiling thru her tears. "Why didn't you tell us, son? We didn't understand. We are so proud of you." The carols came over the air again, filling the room with music--"Praises sing to God the King, and peace on Earth good will to men."

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 tells us: "If there are poor among you in one of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be selfish or greedy toward them. But give freely to them, and freely lend them whatever they need."

The importance of Introductions

#HelloMyNameIs

Susan Moy

Administrative Co-ordinator

Chairperson of Local Hospitality Team, St. John of God Hospital



On 30th November 2016 Saint John of God Hospital proudly joined the global #hellomynameis campaign. The campaign project was managed by the Hospital's Local Hospitality Team.

The 'Hello my name is...' campaign was started by Kate Granger, a doctor and terminally ill cancer patient in the UK. Following her admission to hospital in August 2013, Kate noticed that very few of those treating her introduced themselves by name. It felt incredibly wrong that such a basic step in communication was missing. Kate then started the #hellomynameis campaign on social media aiming to encourage and remind hospital staff of the importance of introducing themselves to patients.

A friendly introduction is much more than common courtesy. It is about making a human connection between one human being who is suffering and vulnerable, and another human being who wants to help.

#hellomynameis helps provide truly person-centred and compassionate care and is very much in line with our Core Values.

Kate died on 26th July this year but she lives on when we say 'Hello my name is..' Kate, may you rest in peace.



TWEETS 1,828
FOLLOWING 2,122
FOLLOWERS 1,986
LIKES 906

Follow

5

Photo Gallery

Local Hospitality Teams



Gathering & Reflection Day – Kerry Services



Christmas Gathering – Lucena Services



HelloMyNames Campaign – St. John of God Hospital



Local Hospitality Team Gathering – Kildare Services



*Thank God It's Hospitality Friday!
- Hospitaller Ministries Headquarters*



Photo Gallery 1st December 2016

2nd Local Hospitality Workshop



(Back Left) Bro. Gregory, Wheran Kee, Bro. Lukasz Dmowski, John Fleming, Liz Kinch, Lucy Forrest, Valeria Lorenzi, Dorota Surala, Katie Maquire, (Front Left) Bro. Kilian, Marie Maloney, Kate Lynn Kelly.

No room in the Inn?

Some years ago a Primary School put on a Christmas play which included the story of Mary and Joseph coming to the Inn. One boy wanted so very much to be Joseph, but when the parts were handed out, a boy he didn't like was given that part, and he was given the part of the Inn-keeper instead. He was very upset about this but he didn't say anything to the Teacher who was directing the Play. During all the rehearsals he thought what he might do the night of the performance to get even with his rival who had the part of Joseph. Finally, the night of the performance, Mary and Joseph came walking across the stage. They knocked on the door of the Inn, and the Inn-keeper opened the door and asked them gruffly

"What do you want?"

Joseph answered, "We'd like to have a room for the night." Suddenly the inn-keeper threw the door open wide and said, "Great, come on in and I'll give you the best room in the house!" For a few seconds poor little Joseph didn't know what to do. Thinking quickly on his feet, he looked inside the door past the Inn-keeper then said, "No wife of mine is going to stay in dump like this. Come on, Mary, let's go to the barn." -And once again the play was back on track!



I would like to thank the Provincial Bro. Donatus and his Council for their continued support. To Bro. Laurence for the use of the rooms in the Community House for our Programmes. Also the Catering and Housekeeping staff for their great attention to our needs. Thanks also to Emma Balmaine CEO at the Hospital, who made rooms available for the Institute programmes, also thanks to Ann Freeman at Hospitaller House who with Maeve Dunne helped us deliver our Programmes.

I thank all the Services for the welcome we got over the last year when we visited and for the good honest discussions we were able to have and I look forward to meeting you all in the New Year for more. We recognise that we are going through difficult times and it is particularly difficult for people at the coalface as it were. We appreciate your dedication to the people you work with and support and the part you are playing in keeping John of God and the Values alive in our Services. We thank all at Hospitaller House, our Group CEO John Pepper and all the Directors of the various departments for their all their support.

Finally to all the members of the Institute Steering Committee, particularly the Chairperson, PJ Drudy, for his wisdom and dedication. Also big thanks to all the Presenters at the various programmes. And last but not least to Wheran Kee the Institute PA for her innovative thought and for her brilliant PowerPoint graphics and most importantly for the difficult task of keeping me in line. Thank you all so much! Gregory





Foundation Programme 2017

“A Personal Journey in Hospitality”

- February 13-14 (Mon-Tue)
- March 6-7 (Mon-Tue)
- April 6-7 (Thu-Fri)
- May 15-16 (Mon-Tue)
- June 14-15 (Wed-Thu)
- September 11-12 (Mon-Tue)
- October 23-24 (Mon-Tue)
- November 20-21 (Mon-Tue)

One day Workshop 2017

“Revisiting the Values”

(For those who have attended the Foundation Programme)

- March 29 (Wednesday)
- May 31 (Wednesday)
- September 20 (Wednesday)

❖ ***We would love to see and meet you. So if you wish to attend any of the above programmes, please contact your Supervisor.***

Happy Christmas!



*May Christmas bring you much Joy, Peace and
Happiness in the New Year!*

Institute of Hospitality



*May the values of St. John of God inspire us
this Christmas and give us the courage to reach out
to one another
like the Child Jesus does and
to welcome the Stranger into our midst.*

*Gregory & Wheran
& All at the Institute*



Nollaig Shona Duit!

