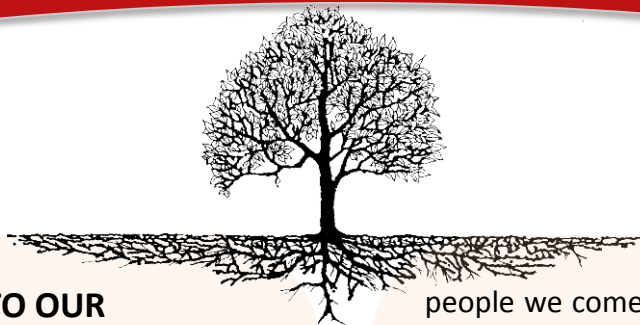


Seeds of Hospitality

August
2016

Newsletter of the Institute of Hospitality
West European Province of Saint John of God - No. 78



GO BACK TO OUR CORE VALUES

We read a lot about the importance of having a good value system, of having a vision in our lives. All of this leads to many questions we have to continuously ask ourselves: What are my beliefs? What is my vision for my life? What types of people do I want to deal with in my life and what does integrity mean to me?

In our John of God family in the West European Province our values are Hospitality, Respect, Compassion, Justice and Excellence. There are many other values in the world mainly derived from a variety of belief systems. Ours comes from the Christian Faith but they are applicable to all religions and none, meaning that anyone can buy into our 5 core values without compromising their personal beliefs. Indeed I believe that they will enhance your life in whatever belief system you have. Most importantly they will enhance the lives of the people who reside with us or come to us on a daily basis for assistance and support. This includes the people we work with. We need to keep asking ourselves what do these core values really mean to me as an individual.

Values need to be part of our daily lives. They are not meant to be something we look at occasionally and say they are very nice! No I think the strongest and most dedicated

people we come across in life are those who keep their core values in mind every time they make a decision. They make decisions based not only on how they think, not only on how their gut feels, but also on what is inside their hearts. They are unselfish people. These people would probably ask themselves:

- *Can I do this and keep my dignity?*
- *Can I keep my integrity?*
- *Can I do it without hurting others?*

If you can answer yes to these questions I would say you are a value driven person!

Success in the *Value World* means figuring out who I am, not who other people think I am or who I think I should be or like to be. It's being able to say, "This is what I am. It may not be enough for some, but it's enough for me to be able to make a difference". When we think about people in our lifetime and in history that have made a difference to people and nations. People like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, St. John of God, St. Benedict Menni, Pope Francis and many others we see the power that one person has to make a difference. We can all make a difference in the short or long-term if we do what's really true to oneself by living the values and having the courage of our convictions. It's not easy but I am sure it is worth it!

"Do good to yourselves my Brothers and Sisters by doing good to others!"

Native American Indians and the Weather



It was autumn, and the Indians on the remote reservation asked their new Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was an Indian Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.



Also, being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed," the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. "Is it going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's definitely going to be a very cold winter." The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find.

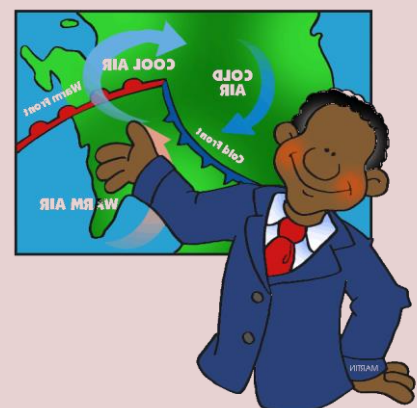
Two weeks later, he called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting wood like crazy!"

How can we be sure about God?



Summary Progress Report from the Steering Committee of the Institute of Hospitality

August 2016

In July 2015 a new Steering Committee chaired by P.J. Drudy was established to work with the Institute of Hospitality and Directors of Service to promote the Core Values of Hospitality, Compassion, Respect, Justice and Excellence and to produce a new Action Plan for the Institute. The Steering Committee met on eight occasions to date.

We report progress to date as follows:

- A detailed Action Plan has been agreed by the Steering Committee of the Institute and endorsed by the Board of Sponsors. Implementation and monitoring is ongoing.
- A review of the Foundation Programme chaired by Julia Rowan of Performance Matters Ltd took place earlier in the year. Sharon Balmaine and Bro. Gregory were the other members of the review group. Sharon Balmaine provided a final report to the Steering Committee on 1 June.
- The "Foundation Programme" is ongoing. Due to logistical difficulties Programme frequency will be reduced to 8 times per annum and attendance in the future will concentrate on senior staff as it is felt that it is essential because of their positions in the Services and also it should be easier to arrange release. It is envisaged that all Frontline Hospitallers will attend the Foundation Programme at a later date when there is less pressure on the Services.
- A New "*Introduction to Core Values*" Programme has been introduced recently. This is a 2-hour programme and 80 Hospitallers to date have attended. It is proposed that frontline Hospitallers will attend as part of their training programmes.
- Programme Design: Principles, Objectives and Outcomes have been agreed and will be implemented out in the Services.
- An Inaugural Meeting of representatives of all the Hospitality Teams took place on 12 May 2016 to share information and give support to one another. This gathering, which took place in St. John of God Hospital, will take place twice yearly or more often if needs be. The Teams will play a key role under the direction of the Directors of Services and in collaboration with the Director of the Institute of Hospitality in keeping the spirit, ethos and values of St. John of God to the forefront in their particular Service. The Terms of Reference have been discussed and agreed with all the Directors and the Teams. Bro. Gregory or a member of the Institute of Hospitality will meet with all the Hospitality Teams on a Quarterly basis for support and consultation.

my name is GOSSIP

*When I am speaking about Justice at the Institute's Foundation Programme I always say:
"Gossip is the most dangerous and destructive thing in any organisation"
I believe this for a variety of reasons. It is very destabilizing, it breeds mistrust and
it creates an atmosphere of negativity.*

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed. I flourish at every level of society. My victims are helpless.

They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no face. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become. I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.

I topple governments, wreck marriages, and ruin careers -- cause sleepless nights, heartaches, and indigestion. I spawn suspicion and generate grief.

I make innocent people cry in their pillows.



Even my name hisses... I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself,

Is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary?

If not

shut up!



Tell Me Your Stories

Dear Hospitallers and Readers.

I hope you enjoy our Newsletter "Seeds of Hospitality". We are looking for ways to improve the newsletter so that it will become more interesting and meaningful. We get some feedback occasionally mainly of a positive nature and we would really like to hear from more of our readers. If anyone has any articles in the context of the values or any interesting stories, which you think would be of benefit to our readers we would like to hear from you.

Also if you have any suggestions that you think would improve the Newsletter so that we can make John of God and our Values more alive wherever we are in our world today we would really like to hear from you. We really appreciate the work that you are doing in the name of St. John of God and feel it is so important that everyone is affirmed in what they are doing. What you are doing is making the world a better place particularly for the people we are accompanying and supporting.

Life is Difficult but in your living of the Values you are making life less difficult for all the people in our lives. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Gregory

Hospitality

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy.

Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."

-Henri Nouwen-

