

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 17 July 2022

Scriptures: Genesis 18:1-10; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42

Homily: Fr. Ken

In the first reading from the Book of Genesis we find Abraham and Sarah offering hospitality to God's angels, and they receive a blessing.

In the Gospel reading from Luke, we find Martha and Mary welcoming Jesus into their home. In response, Jesus shows them true hospitality.

The scriptures show us time and time again how people who offer hospitality to God find themselves on the receiving end of God's hospitality—like Abraham and Sarah. Martha and Mary, and so many others. God is never outdone in generosity.

We give different names to the hospitality of God: salvation, eternal life, wholeness, healing, redemption, forgiveness, holiness, and hope.

Always, when we make room for God in our lives—either in prayer, or in service to others, or in faithfulness to our calling—we find ourselves transformed by the encounter.

The good news is that it is God's very self who—in so many small and countless ways—is the real visitor into our own daily lives.

If we welcome God, then we are inevitably changed. We become more compassionate, more willing to serve, more ready to turn away from our sin, more gentle, more open to life, more able to listen, to pray, to love. In short, we become more like the God we welcome.

By offering God hospitality, we are drawn into God's hospitality. Our God makes a home in us, and we find ourselves at home in the Lord.

Such hospitality is not simply sacred, it is life-giving both for us and for those we encounter, and for those who encounter us.

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