

HOSPITALITY IN OUR PARISHES
 DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT
 STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION
 AUGUST 28 & 30, 2011



“WELCOMING THE STRANGER AMONG US”

“As Catholics we are called to take concrete measures to overcome the misunderstanding, ignorance, competition, and fear that stand in the way of genuinely welcoming the stranger ...”



**“Welcoming the Stranger Among Us”,
 Unity in Diversity Statement
 of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops**

DID YOU FEEL WELCOMED?




- Did someone direct you on where to park?
- Did someone introduce him or herself?
- Did someone offer you handouts?
- Were you offered refreshments?
- Were you invited to make a name tag?

DID YOU FEEL WELCOMED? (CONT.)

How was your greeting as you arrived today?

- Staff and event organizers?
- Were the signs helpful?

What specifically made you feel welcome?



Did you welcome others?

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOSPITALITY

Personal Presence

- Being with people

An Inner Attitude


- Hospitality as way of life

Making Space

- Physically, emotionally and spiritually

Paying Attention

- Listen to others with our heads, bodies and hearts



LONG-TERM STEPS TO DEVELOP HOSPITALITY



- Assemble & form a Team
- Assess current Reality
- Discern the Vision
- Develop a Plan for bringing the Vision and Reality into alignment
- Implement the Plan
- Assess the results for continuous improvement

THE PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST

Is there a parish **committee** charged with hospitality?
 How effective and welcoming is your **new parishioner program**?
 Are the Liturgy & Sacramental Programs hospitable? (See **handout**) Are they well-communicated and flexible?



PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST (CONT.)

Is your **signage** appropriate?
 Do you have **greeters** and **ushers**? Do they understand the difference?
 Are buildings and grounds, especially areas of common use, **accessible** to all parishioners?



PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST (CONT.)

Does your parish embrace **cultural diversity** and hospitality?
 Does your parish reach out to others **in your community and the world**?



PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST (CONT.)

Do you have a **Ministry Fair** to invite and recruit new people into parish ministries?
 Are parishioners **personally invited** to participate on committees and commissions?



WE CAN HELP: STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION, DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

We have a **Diocesan Booklet on Hospitality (handout)**.
 We can meet with your **Parish Council or Stewardship Committee** to discuss Hospitality and ways to enhance it in your parish?
 Go to:
www.davenportdiocese.org



In-Service on Christian Hospitality
 Presented by:
 Dr. Richard McCorry
Sunday, November 20, 2011
Creating a More Welcoming Parish
 1-4 p.m.
Spirituality During Times of Change
 5-8 p.m.
 St. Patrick Church
 Iowa City

