

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings give us a beautiful picture of hospitality, but not just the kind that puts food on the table. They invite us to consider: How do we welcome the Lord into our lives?

In the first reading, Abraham welcomes the three strangers when they are approaching his tent. Despite the heat of the day, and without knowing who they are, he runs to welcome them. He offers water, bread, and rest.

But here's the surprise - these visitors are not just travelers. They are messengers of God, and through this moment of hospitality, Sarah receives the promise of a son.

Sometimes, the blessings we are praying for come through the unexpected guests at our door - or the interruptions in our day. Abraham teaches us: God often visits through others.

In today's Gospel - Jesus is welcomed into the home of Martha and Mary. Both sisters love Him. Martha gets busy with preparing the meal, while Mary sits at Jesus' feet, listening.

Martha complains - understandably! - but Jesus gently responds: "Martha, Martha... you are worried about many things, but only one thing is necessary."

Now, Jesus doesn't say Martha is wrong. In fact, the Church needs many Marthas - people who serve, organize, clean, cook. But what Mary has chosen - being present with Jesus - is the heart of true hospitality. Hospitality isn't just what we do for Jesus. It's whether we are willing to listen to Him, be still, and make space in our hearts.

And then we hear Saint Paul's powerful words: "Christ in you, the hope of glory." That's the deepest mystery. Not just welcoming Christ into our homes, but into our hearts and lives so fully that His life shines through ours. Even in suffering, Paul finds purpose: to reveal Christ to others.

So whether you're like Martha, busy with tasks...

Or like Mary, seeking a deeper silence with the Lord...

Or like Abraham, simply offering a kind welcome...

The question is: Is there room for Jesus in your life? Not just on Sunday, but in the everyday?

This week, try to:

- Spend a few minutes in quiet prayer, like Mary.
- Welcome someone with love - a neighbor, friend, or even a stranger - like Abraham.
- Offer your daily duties, even the hard ones, for others, like St. Paul.

Because when we welcome Christ in prayer, in people, in our own suffering - He transforms ordinary moments into eternal blessings.

Lord Jesus, Help us to welcome You - not just in our churches, but in our homes, in our hearts, and in our busy lives. Teach us to be still like Mary, to serve like Martha, and to trust like Abraham. May we never miss the moment when You pass by. Amen.