



Seeds of Hospitality

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Happy Easter to all Hospitallers!

“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit” Aristotle

The time is just flying away and at times it is so difficult to keep up with it. The Institute team of Kilian, Wheran and myself have just returned from Malawi and Zambia where we had great Hospitaller experiences. In Monze, Malawi we presented a one-day seminar “Revisiting the Values” for people who have participated previously on the Foundation Programme. Thirty people attended and it was a very interactive experience. The sharing and feedback from all the participants was excellent.

The experience in Mzuzu and in Monze (Zambia) brought home to me the great message we have from Jesus Christ and from our founder St. John of God and the challenge we have of sharing the message.

Hospitality like Excellence as Aristotle says needs to be practiced and become a habit. It is evident that hospitality is alive and well amongst all the hospitallers we met, but it was also obvious that people needed to be affirmed and encouraged in their vocation of hospitality. *Life is difficult* and everyone needs a helping hand on life’s journey. Here are a few quotes from the sharing at the Seminar:

“Hospitality is easy to practice eg. By a simple smile; however other components of hospitality may be a challenge eg. Providing food and maybe accommodation”

“We can add excellence to everything we do by being innovative and working as a team, also by recognising the abundance of resources around if we look”

“Discover yourself and then the world. This will help to create a vision that we believe in. Accept change as part of life. Achieve goals and develop skills. Seek to use the possibilities that are there. Acknowledge the contribution that are made by others”

I am sure these few quotes give you an idea of the richness of the sharing at the Mzuzu Seminar.

The 2 Foundation Programmes that we presented in Monze were equally as rich but we were very struck by the earthiness of the sharing. A selection of the quotations can be read in this Newsletter.

We would like to thank Bro. Aidan and the team in Mzuzu for their hospitality and also Theresa Ghalaieny and her team in Monze for the great welcome and hospitality we received during our visit. Our condolence to Theresa on the death of her Father, which didn’t deter her from organising a great week in Monze even though she was in Ireland.

Happy Easter

Bro. Gregory



February and March Groups of Hospitallers

Be True to Yourself

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

*This poem was written by **Mother Teresa**
and is engraved on the wall of her home for children in Calcutta.*

One Day Seminar in Mzuzu, Malawi



Foundation Programmes in Monze, Zambia



Each paragraph is an individual reflection of the people who attended the Foundation Programmes in Monze

"I learn a lot on the workshop for St. John of God. Communication is very important, respect, compassion. We are suppose to treat others equally especially the patients. Hospitality is about relationship one cannot be hospitable without guests."

"The powerpoint presentation really helped me to understand because I was able to see how John suffered, which was very interesting."

"I learnt about the 'smile'. That smiling to people is very important when welcoming visitors, it shows hospitality."

"It was very interesting because Br. Gregory also explained about cleanness and nutrition and those patients need to be kept in a clean environment and should be given proper diet for their health which shows hospitality."

"It was very interesting and I learnt how to deal with patients as a driver. We have to work together to help the sick. Hospitality treats people respectfully because they are sacred beings."

"I learnt about the broken cup that pain knocks us over, like a cup on it's side. We may feel at times like our hope has been drained out of our lives."

"Hospitality is not something I achieve, it is something I enter into and I need to practice and keep the environment clean."

"Hospitality is a spiritual practice, which begins in the heart. Hospitality is love. It is openness to the unknown visitors, who come to our office, how we welcome them, do we treat people equally with our experiences in nature and to God."

"I didn't know that the Order is so big and that it is even in Ireland and Malawi. It is real a challenge that the values of the Order are practiced everywhere. Hospitality involves giving something of myself to others."

"John had the feelings with others in their suffering. A life of hospitality begins in worship with recognition of God's grace and generosity."

"I learnt a lot about the core values that the work we do here is done everywhere, we are one and we need to practice hospitality. It has to come from our heart."

"I learnt a lot that there is need to use compassion, respect to people who come to our office and we have to care for the needy. We have a responsibility to each other and to everything that God has created. Hospitality comes from my heart and I need to practice it not just at work but also outside."

"Hospitality is friendly and generous, it welcomes the stranger. Openness is very important in the way we express our feelings to others. We must demonstrate our concern and understanding towards patients, their families, friends and all whom we work with."

"We need to choose a small committee and then send questions to the staff then discuss the values every month. We need to support each other. After we discuss the values then we can send the feedback to the brothers."

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.

Dalai Lama