

Martin de Porres House of Hospitality

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We are all brothers/sisters, given the same earth to share,
created by the same mother/father of us all, God who is Love.

Dear Friends,

We have had a very busy, intense summer. Our annual ball game was a huge success; the guests commented it was the best of the last 8 years. The day turned out to be hot and sunny, in between bouts of gray fog, somewhat a reflection of our summer mood; moments of clarity in between confusion and change.

We have named the new house David House, in memory of a prince of a man who died on Thanksgiving day, 1984. It seemed fitting to name the house after someone who was a healer. David was an emergency room nurse who headed our Tuesday lunch crew for years, spiritual teacher and most loving human being.

David House has been full with people. Some recuperating after just being released from the hospital, college students, priests from out of state, and others, a variety of God's children.

Martins has been equally busy. Many new guests, not only who come to eat with us, but guest volunteers, some coming all the way from Germany and New Guinea. The garden has been in full bloom and the joy and beauty from it feeds our souls daily.

We have had many comings and goings. Some long time volunteers, going on to other things. At the same time, old friends that haven't been with us for years have reappeared, somehow expressing a circle unbroken, even though our hearts are heavy at times with the loss we feel from peoples' absence.

We have had a few memorials, one of the most touching ones being of a long time guest, Peter and his dog, Bo. They died three months apart and a special place is in all our hearts for them both. We also celebrated the marriage of September and Eric, two of our most dedicated volunteers. This wonderful young couple bring blessings to all who know them and have a wisdom way beyond their years.

I would like to take this opportunity to try and clarify Martins philosophy about money. Some of you have been puzzled that we say so little about money, and money can be such a confusing issue, especially regarding spiritual service work. Every part of our work must be as pure and filled with integrity as every other part. We don't believe in guilt or pressure, we think there is enough of that already in the world.

We believe all money is God's. We get the opportunity in life to share all we are given, including money. We pray that people donate money because it is a joy and a privilege. That you believe that whatever we are doing we are trying our hardest to deal with the plight of suffering which engulfs people today. If you believe that there should always be a place in the world where the stilling of fears, calming of hearts, and practice of compassion be put into action, we ask you to help keep us going. Our faith is constantly being tested at Martins, money is just one of the ways.

Affectionate generosity or gentle personalism is not measured in dollar amounts. The spirit behind your offering is a strong component of the spiritual force people feel in our hospitality. We sincerely believe that a dollar offered with generosity and humility has greater impact on the world than a million given grudgingly.

We hope this answers some of your questions. If you want to take your name off our mailing list, or add a friend's name to it, don't hesitate to drop us a note. We send you all the bloom of a summer's garden. May we always remember we bask in each other and God's Love.

In God's Light,



Barbara Collier
for the Martin De Porres community