

# *Martin de Porres House of Hospitality*

225 Potrero Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Telephone (415) 552-0240

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Dear Friends:

Why do we do the things we do? Why does God do the things God does? Does God do anything? Do we do anything? There is so much talk lately about political matters and the state of the world. We ask ourselves and each other: What can we do? What should we do? Who should do it? I felt like Martin's had to address this issue and what it means to be a spiritual group.

We say that we are a spiritual group, not because we consider ourselves to be more spiritual than other people or groups, not because we think we are more holy than other people, or in any way better, only that we recognize that the spiritual part of a person or group is as big, if not bigger, than their physical body. We at Martin's find the spiritual part of life the most important part of our own lives.

What is this spiritual part that I am trying to talk about? It is God-given, God-made, and God inspired. It is not found in man-made things; it is a spark of what mystics have called the divine. It is that which can not be made or destroyed, that which is now and forever, that which is never born and never dies. IT IS.

The political world, the physical body, seem to need to do things, build/destroy, give/take, judge/accept. However, the world of the spirit is a world of is-ness. The world of the spirit is a dimension in which things are never tangible and yet without these qualities life withers and dies: Compassion, Empathy, Truth, Beauty, and most of all, LOVE. That word is used so much these days and yet is rarely found in its pure unconditional form. The Love that God gives us is that unconditional Love, and we in turn try in our own small way to emulate that Love and give it to ourselves and others.

Love thy neighbor as thy self. Love thine enemy. These two things are the most political statements we can make at this time. The planet seems in such danger, greed is so rampant, the pain we see in the newspapers, television, and media seem to want to make us forget that Love is all around us. The spirit is here to heal us, guide us, and Love us.

We have all been brought up to believe that if you give something away you no longer have it. But in the spirit world, that which you give away is not only with you but comes back a hundred fold. A teacher that teaches knowledge does not lose that knowledge, and Love, no matter how much you give out, grows and grows and you always have more to give. Our planet seems very large, the problems so huge, but when you look at it from the point of view that we are one small planet in an immense galaxy with infinite space around us -- that is forever.

In that same way, we as people are like earth, and God and the spirit world are infinity, never ending always, and loving. It is hard for us to understand, but at the same time we have felt it at times, we have all given it and we can always receive it when we are open to it.

We at Martin's are striving to do the most radical spiritual thing we can by Being as well as Doing. Our task is to accept ourselves, not only in the body but also in the part of our selves that is Spirit. In a world that wants to deny the Spirit and focus only on the material, we strive to recognize that the Love we have and the Love we give is the only measure of the fulfillment of that which we are called to.

In God's Light,



Barbara Collier

for the Martin de Porres Community