

## *Martin de Porres House of Hospitality*

225 Potrero Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
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Thanksgiving 1992

Let the greatest among you be servant of all. For whoever makes himself great shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be made great.

-- Matthew 23

Dear Friends:

We at Martin's feel so rich at this time. In a world that judges people by how much money they make, the color of their skin or their sexual orientation, judges the physical perfection of their bodies or the fact that someone has grown old, we at Martin's are rich in our acceptance of each other. How many of us can stand naked in front of another person without our roles, possessions, titles, and really see into each others' souls?

We are rich in the authenticity of our lives with each other, not based on superficial exchanges but based on seeing each other person as a whole human being, someone to be with and to love. How humbling it is to watch someone in front of you stripped of almost all material resources, sharing with you the intimate parts of their lives. How can we not be thankful for the opportunity we have to be with the poor, the outcast, the humble? We are given the daily opportunity to serve those that are truly the children of God. They come to us like children: vulnerable, open, hopeful, not only for their daily sustenance, but for affection, acceptance and love.

Is there anything on earth as rewarding as the smile on someone's face when you remember their name? Anything as touching as being able to touch the untouchables? Anything as successful as knowing you have made that step into another's heart?

We are rich in being able to hold someone when the depth of their grief makes it hard for them to breathe. We are rich in being able to witness the kindness that our guests show each other, in their generosity of spirit when it is hard for them to take another step both physically and mentally.

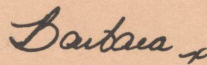
We are rich, not in material things, but rich in having people that are willing to be naked before us, and show us their real selves. We in turn get the opportunity to be our most real selves.

We are rich in having supporters like yourselves, who continue to help us financially to do the ministry we love. We thank you in advance for your financial help and your prayers that so enrich our lives.

We are in no way perfect. We are in no way there. But I am convinced that we are on the right road. However lost our paths might have been, we are walking on this road with each other.

On this road we know there is nowhere to go. The greatest treasures we have are each other; the greatest adventures we take are into each other's souls. The road we have found ourselves on is the path to God and each one of us an angel that helps along the way.

In God's Light,



Barbara Collier

For the Martin de Porres Community