

# 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time Of The Year

(Genesis 18.1-10, Colossians 1.24-28, Luke 10.38-42)

**Theme: Your act of hospitality and generosity can make changes in YOUR LIFE!**

Beloved people of God: The readings of today have presented to us one of the acts of mercy that could change our lives for the better. This is the virtuous act of hospitality which always goes with generosity.

The first reading today, presented to us how our *Father in Faith, Abraham* and his household showed hospitality and generosity to those who were in need. These travelers did not beg Abraham for help, but Abraham saw them and realized that, they were hungry and tired, and he willingly offered them food and a place of rest.

By these acts of mercy to these men who were in need, Abraham received from God, a solution to his problem and the answer to his long awaited prayer to God for a child of his own. God blessed Abraham and Sarah, his wife, with a son. Abraham and his wife gave the strangers food, drink and shelter, and God gave them a child as a blessing for their good act.

In our gospel narrative today, we see again another family living out these virtues of hospitality and generosity to a stranger. The family of *Lazarus, Mary & Martha*, welcomed Jesus and his disciples in their home and showed them hospitality. Jesus, on His own part rewarded Mary & Martha for their hospitality, by raising Lazarus, their brother to life.

In the Bible again, people pleaded with Jesus to have mercy on the *Roman Officer* and heal his servant because of the officer's generosity to the people. The officer helped them financially to build their church. In return Jesus healed his servant. (Luke 7:1-10)

In the Old Testament, the *widow of Zarephath* showed hospitality and generosity to Elijah, the prophet of God. In return through the power of God, Elijah saved the widow and her only son from death. (1Kings 17.8-24)

In the gospel again, people pleaded with Jesus to save the life of the woman, *Tabitha*, because of her acts of generosity of sewing, mending clothes and giving them out to the poor. In return, God blessed her and Jesus raised her to life again.

In our lives as Christians, sons and daughters of God, God wants us to live by these virtues of hospitality and generosity. If you can, try and put a smile on the faces of the poor and needy.

As we practice this virtue, one thing is certain: God will always reward us with His blessings.