

April 24, 2005

In response to our salvation in Christ we are called to be a people who are open to others. This means we are to be “an inviting and welcoming” people who want to share our faith and pray with others. Our manner should be upbeat and joyful. We want folks to be comfortable and at ease in our presence. It is important, therefore, that we give people our time and attention because they deserve it. If by definition a community is relational, then it would be right for us to develop an attitude of warmth and friendliness to strangers in our midst. Remember, we have a ministry of outreach only to the extent that we reach out personally to others.

Inviting and Welcoming

The biblical concept of fellowship means relationships that involve more than when the whole community comes together.

Describing the fellowship in Acts 2, it tells us that “with glad and generous hearts they partook of food in each other’s homes.”

In practice, fellowship means smaller groups of people spending meaningful time together, gathering in homes, praying with each other, eating together, even playing together.

Christian fellowship is part of the life of the community and part of evangelism.

Fellowship is at the heart of authentic renewal.

It takes all of us without exception to create the community’s richness.

We want to meet one another in an atmosphere of brotherhood & sisterhood.

Unpretentious friendliness, affability, kindness and gentleness should characterize us.

The community should maintain a down-to-earth love for others.

We should foster an attitude that says: “What else can we do?”

In response to God’s love and grace, we are called to share our faith.

As unique individuals, we each have the ability to reach out to others in a variety of ways.

Each one of us has the ability to pray for people, so let’s pray in power.