



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES



SEPTEMBER 2019

Putting on the Mind of Christ: Living Radical Hospitality in All Things

by Mary Lou Mauss, Associate, Radical Hospitality Promise Group

Recognizing hospitality is pretty easy. We can all smile, even say hello, hold the door, take a meal to an elderly neighbor or provide service as part of a group. But, when does it become RADICAL hospitality?

This excerpt from the August letter of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious sent to President Trump stated: “The people of this pluralistic nation form a diverse polity characterized by a wide variety of beliefs, experiences, and interests. Disagreements and differences have the potential to challenge all of us to abandon easy certainty and seek a fuller truth. The problem is not our many differences or passionate disagreements. Those differences are our greatest strength; those disagreements are opportunities for growth. It is how we handle those inevitable conflicts that spell the difference between building the common good and destroying the bonds that bind this nation.” [Read full letter here.](#)

Seeking that “fuller truth” is a first step to living radical hospitality. Reaching out to those less like us, or not of our circle, is “building the common good.” In our crazy, busy world it’s easy to walk through our day totally unaware of anything outside our own thoughts or the things happening in our own little world. How can we change to be more aware and more caring?

In Matthew 19:16-22, the rich young man asks Jesus, “Teacher, what must I do?” What Jesus asks of the young man is radical hospitality. The young man couldn’t meet the challenge and sadly walked away. How do we respond to those words of Jesus? How much of ourselves, our time and our possessions are we willing to share with those less fortunate than us?

A meditation on Matthew 19, in God’s Word Among Us, tells us what to do:

- First: Spend time thanking God for all His blessings.
- Second: Pray to the Holy Spirit to make us aware of the things God puts before us to do.
- Third: Ask yourself, what happened today and how was God speaking to me?
Did I miss something I should have done?
- Fourth: Look ahead to the next day. Ask Jesus to be with you in any situation that arises.

This meditation every evening will certainly make us more aware of radical hospitality opportunities. Then the question is: How will we respond to those opportunities?

“Open my eyes Lord. Help me to be more like you”

¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

The March to Defend the Nature Reserve of Tariquía

(A part of Tariquía is located in the southern section of O'Connor Province.)

With the firm purpose of defending that which is “essential for life itself,” the march was considered the last opportunity to put an end to the oil company's entrance to the reserve. The valiant members of Chiquiacá and nearby areas (women, men, children and elderly) decided to join together in protest demanding that the government annul the contracts previously signed for the exploration and exploitation of oil in Tariquía.

First, they had to confront the government authorities who attempted a forced entry into the area, so they resolved to place a vigil at a strategic point on the road to block off the reserve. This vigil lasted for 170 days. Exhausted and concerned about leaving behind their own work, they decided to suspend the vigil and begin a march from the community of Chiquiaca to the city of Tarija, a distance of 100 miles. The goal was to make public their demand and announce that they would keep a continual watch. Having already experienced the exhaustion and weakness of months of struggle, as well as the suffering of internal division within the community and within their families, they began the march.

There were difficult times: cold nights, hot days, lack of food, shelter, adequate clothing, shoes, etc. However, this valiant group was led by faith, animating one another on the long walk by prayers, songs, poetry, good humor and the conviction that together they could make a difference. Along the way, others joined them in solidarity (including Sisters Marge Healy and Mery Cari Paz), especially as they, seven days later, approached the main plaza of Tarija. In front of more than a 1,000 people, they read their resolution to protect the Nature Reserve.

May their testimony be a call to action for each of us.



Members of Chiquiacá and nearby areas arriving in Tarija



Vidal Jimenez, authority in Chiquiacá and one of the original rural catechist of Entre Ríos, and Sister Marge Healy

Hermanas Therese Corkery, Suzanne Takes, Mery Cari Paz and Marge Healy



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Back to School at the Lantern Center

In July, we had our highest number of learning hours per month for at least the past year! More than 40 students put in more than 400 learning hours, and seven new students came to start at our center!

Also in July, Megan, director, and JoLynn, education director, attended a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services training in how to help immigrants who are studying for their citizenship exam. They learned a lot of information about the citizenship process and the rules governing the process.

August is a time of rest and renewal, with the center closed for regular tutoring, but at the end of the month, we gear up for the next year of learning! Almost 40 volunteers came to our volunteer training on Monday, August 27 to learn about ProLiteracy, tutoring with technology, teaching English language learners who are studying for their high school equivalency and tips for tutoring for the citizenship test. In addition, the center got spruced up with visits from the Presentation Sisters, associates and *Launch into Loras* freshman.

We've had an influx of new volunteers over the summer months, including 16 in August! We know there are others who can use language and citizenship tutoring, or just a warm place of welcome in their new homeland. Spread the word! We would love to get to know them, and we have tutors waiting to help.

Contact us if you need more information:
(563) 557-7134 or thelanterncenter@gmail.com.
We're located in the basement of 900 Jackson and are open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.



About 20 students came to help us spruce up the center and get caught up on clerical duties as part of their student orientation.



While parents learn English, kids have a safe, secure place to play and learn at the Lantern Center.



Board president Tim Moothart, third from left, shared a message of hope and solidarity at Lights for Liberty in July. The evening was organized to shine a light on inhumane conditions at the border.



Summer time for La Luz Hispana is a time to refresh and refocus on our goals for the coming year. But in our busy center instead of taking the time to breathe and plan, we decided to add more wonderful programs to do in the summer.

After Gran Festival, our exciting cultural celebration, we thought, “wouldn’t it be exciting if we could teach a Spanish Basics Class for the summer.” La Luz Hispana started their very own Spanish class for the summer with 10 participants who have enjoyed their time learning and speaking to others in Spanish.

After Spanish classes ended, we decided to do another year of Kids Active Program to help the kids stay active during the summer. For two days a week, La Luz Hispana staff would meet at a park and play games with the kids. The kids loved the idea of having fun and a time to run around with other kids AND they were disconnecting from electronics and computer games. At the end of the program, we celebrated with a pool party, an exciting close to summer.



After our programs, we needed to get ready for La Luz Hispana’s ESL (English as a Second Language) class for our adult learners. We had about 50 people sign up for the classes and although we are struggling for room we are making it work. We have dedicated two rooms for the beginner and intermediate classes, the most popular of the three classes we offer. Our building was set up to have classes at each end of our building with the middle room serving as a multipurpose family room utilized by parents who bring their young kids to class. Our building gets full and people are happy to be able to come and learn.



These past few months have been very busy and we hope to continue this way for more years to come. People enjoy the programs and we aspire to teach and empower people.

In the coming months La Luz Hispana will be going through some changes and adding more programming. As we go through these changes, we would like to get everyone involved as we need our members’ help. As we enter into new ventures, we need the help of our volunteers and community members to succeed. We look forward to keeping in touch with everyone and to keep you updated. We thank our supporters because without you we could not succeed.

Claudia Rivera and Aimee Hanson