Living With Our Arms Wide Open

Radical Hospitality

Place a cross next to items your parish does well. Place a question mark next to those that would be challenging for your parish.

Our parish can say “we are living with our arms wide open when…..”:

When our parish leadership has fierce conversations in answering the questions: Lord, what would you have us do? Who would you have us welcome?

When the lay leadership positions in your parish can be held by a variety of people who represent a variety of generations, education, economic class, cultures, genders and giftedness.

When we realize that we can only love one another, not change, create or restore one another. Only God does that.

When we can say we are willing to do “with others” instead of do “for others”.

When we might be stretched beyond our own comfort and realize the Church exists to point toward God, not ourselves.

When we might make room for another’s voice and hopes for the parish.

When we no longer need to just assimilate new people into our community, but want to be inclusive and honor their personhood and their story.

When we understand that new and different people will bless our lives as much as we have the potential to bless theirs.

When our decisions are not made out of fear of change but out of trust in the Holy Spirit to transform our Church into a welcoming community for all.

When we understand that first impressions are about connections and lasting impressions are about relationships.

When we can relay that the “story” of our parish is still being written. We know and value our beginnings and history but we are still evolving and growing.

When we understand that absolutely everyone inside and outside of our parish has intrinsic value to God.

When we realize that all people matter to God right where they are.

Excerpts from Radical Welcoming by Stephanie Spellers and Lasting Impressions by Mark Waltz
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