RECongress 2019  
8-05: Wine and Dine with Jesus: The Greatest Invitation of Your Life

Wine and Dine With Jesus  
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But Not With Wine by Jessica Powers  
“You are drunk but not with wine.” Isaiah 51:21  

O God of too much giving, whence is this  
inebriation that possesses me  
that the staid road now wanders all amiss  
and that the wind walks much too giddily,  
crutching a bush for balance, or a tree?  
How then can dignity and pride endure  
With such inordinate mirth upon the land,  
When steps and speech are somewhat insecure  
And the light heart is wholly out of hand?  

If there be indecorum in my songs,  
fasten the blame where rightly it belongs:  
on Him who offered me too many cups  
of His most potent goodness – not on me,  
a peasant who, because a king was host,  
drank out of courtesy.

Scriptures to Pray With When Planning a Dinner or Party  
John 12: 1-8  Notice how Jesus accepts hospitality and  
what Martha and Mary do to create a safe place for him  
to enjoy himself.  
Luke 1: 35- 49 The Visitation – Mary and Elizabeth  
Luke 12: 35 The Master will wait on faithful servant  

Hospitality of the Body  
Jesus welcomes the children  Matthew 19: 13-15  
Woman who cried and washed his feet with her tears  
Luke 7: 36-50  
Woman who anointed his body with oil  John 12  
At Eucharist Jesus gave his very Body and Blood  
“I live in You and You live in me” – Ultimate Hospitality  John 15: 4  
Stretched out on the cross, arms outstretched,  Matthew 27:45 - 54

YOUR BODY Hospitality  
The crook of your arm  
Your lap  
The palm of your hand
How do you offer the hospitality of your body – a safe, warm place to another?

**The Guest House**

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they’re a crowd of sorrows
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorable.
he may be clearing you out
for some new delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.
be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Rumi

**Contemplative Prayer before and after the Party**

Spend time in silence. Listen to God’s invitation. What is God’s hope for this party?
How is being a host or hostess a calling?
Remember how Jesus enjoyed hospitality.
Anticipate what you imagine would make this a great party.
Pray that people will connect with each other.
Who will you ask to help you delegate tasks so you can be present to your guests?
Make a To Do List but also a List of your Intentions and Hopes.

**After:** Did people have a good time? What surprised you? What are you grateful for?
Surrender and let go of what disappointed you and glean a lesson for next time.

**Books:**

Byrne, Brendan *The Hospitality of God*
Fatula, Mary Ann *Catherine of Siena’s Way*

**Video:** Sr. Jose Hobday [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQRriBf5FGk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQRriBf5FGk)