

## **Active Nonviolence Corner**

### **Scripture Connection**

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2

## **Nonviolent Hospitality**

**December 2025**



Nonviolent hospitality is the practice of welcoming others with unconditional warmth and respect, often as a form of peaceful resistance against division and injustice. It involves actively creating inclusive spaces and challenging the "us vs. them" mentality by extending care and support to strangers and those who are marginalized or vulnerable. This can manifest as both a personal approach to relationships and a larger social movement focused on building acceptance, compassion, and community.

In Catholic Social Teaching, hospitality is the virtue of welcoming and caring for strangers, the poor, and all people as if they were Christ, reflecting God's own welcome. It is understood as a spiritual obligation, rooted in scripture, and extends beyond physical accommodations to include offering friendship, emotional support, and

creating a safe and inclusive environment. This principle is seen as crucial for building community and fostering evangelization, and it is a condition for salvation, as highlighted in the Gospel of Matthew.

## Examples of nonviolent hospitality

- Provide for basic needs: Food, housing, clothing. There are many places in Milwaukee that do this kind of hospitality work where we can get involved including: [Hunger Task Force](#) (food), [Father Gene's Help Center](#) (clothing) [Benedict Center Sisters South](#) (housing).



- Accompany and support: Right now, our immigrant sisters and brothers are in need of accompaniment and your care and support. Consider developing a relationship with our immigrant neighbors through these organizations: [Catholic Charities ESL and citizenship tutoring](#), [Voces De La Frontera court accompaniment program](#).



- Bridge divides: Extending hospitality across cultural divides and transcending backgrounds and nationalities to build community. [The Visit Milwaukee site gives a 3-day itinerary](#) to immerse yourself in the cultures of the city. Could this be a new holiday tradition for your family?



- Challenge injustice through action: When we use our voices and actions to journey with and for others, we challenge injustice in nonviolent, peaceful ways. Look at some local organizing near us: [Justice for Immigrants](#), [Souls to the Polls](#), and [The Milwaukee Community Justice Council](#).



## Quiz

1. What hospitality did Abraham provide to the traveling strangers?
2. Who showed hospitality to the prophet Elijah during a time of famine?
3. What type of hospitality did Mary and Joseph receive when traveling to Bethlehem?
4. Which tax collector had Jesus and the Disciples to his house for a meal?
5. What message about hospitality did Jesus give during the Sermon on the Mount?
6. Name two agencies that help new immigrants resettle in our city.

7. Name two places of hospitality for the homeless in Milwaukee.
8. How many new households have joined OLOL so far in 2025? Have you introduced yourself to one of them?
9. Who sponsors the OLOL food pantry and how many people were served on November 4th?
10. Which ministries provide food, clothing, and shelter to others through OLOL?

[Click here for answers!](#)

## **Local Action**

A posada is a traditional Christmas celebration in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries that reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. It consists of nine days of festivities, from December 16 to December 24, during which groups of people go door-to-door singing carols and asking for "lodging" (the meaning of the word *posada*).

In Milwaukee, consider participating in a posada at St. Sebastian Church: *Las Posadas in Solidarity with Teosinte*, Friday, December 19, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm at St. Sebastian Church, 5400 W. Washington Blvd., Milwaukee. Music will be provided by the Casa Romero Youth Choir. Refreshments to follow the service.

Or at St. Alphonsus Church, 6060 W. Loomis Rd., Greendale. 8:00 am, Thursday, December 18.



Read All About It

### [No Amazon for Advent](#)

[The Center on Faith and Justice](#) is helping launch a new campaign called “[No Amazon for Advent](#),” which calls on people of faith to reclaim this season of giving. We are stepping away from Amazon to step closer to one another. Instead of enriching the world’s wealthiest, we choose to strengthen the places and people that make our communities whole. We choose local businesses struggling to survive, nonprofits caring for the vulnerable, and neighbors in need of compassion. We practice being intentional by spending less on things and more on purpose.

Check out this [Ultimate Guide to an Ethical Christmas](#) as an alternative.

### [Christmas Book Flood!](#) Can This Be Our Christmas Eve Tradition Too?

Giving books on Christmas Eve is an Icelandic tradition called Jólabókaflóð, or "Christmas Book Flood," where family members exchange books as gifts and spend the night reading them. This practice was established during World War II because paper was one of the few goods not rationed, making books a popular and accessible holiday gift. The tradition is a cozy way to bond over stories, often accompanied by hot drinks, and has gained popularity globally.

(Shop local bookstores: [Boswell Books](#), [The Voyagers](#), [Lion’s Tooth](#), [The Niche Book Bar](#), [Rooted MKE](#))

### **Jesus' Call to Nonviolence Conversation Starters**



1. Who is someone in your life that you would describe as hospitable? What characteristics do you notice as they serve others? In what ways would you like to grow in this area?
  
2. What prevents you from welcoming others into your home? What fears or misunderstandings about hospitality keep you from reaching out to others?
  
3. When was the last time you invited someone into your home? Is there someone that you've been meaning to have over, but have neglected to do so? What can you do today to reach out to them?

4. How can we be hospitable if being physically present is not possible?

**Prayer**

(the image of the people gathered at sunset would go underneath the word prayer)

Father God,

Help me grow in hospitality so that I may show your love to others.

Make me aware of people around me who want a friend or have a need I can meet.

Give me a desire to open my home and let all world comparisons fall away.

Forgive me for the times I have let details take over.

Help me invite and welcome people, new and old, into my house or challenge me to host elsewhere.

It is inspiring to read about the early church and the importance of having a place to meet, eat, and pray.

Grow in me a spirit of eagerness to practice hospitality.  
Open my heart and direct me this week to one way I can begin to  
serve and welcome others.  
In Jesus' Name, Amen.