

Martin de Porres House of Hospitality
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I slept and I dreamed that life was all joy.
I woke and saw that life was but service.
I served and understood that service was joy.

Tagore

Thanksgiving 2004

Dear Friends,

Our fifth Sunday meal in October fell on Halloween. We had been encouraged by the head of the crew to come in costume. It was a busy meal. We served over 140 pounds of pasta, 40 gallons of homemade sauce, 50 pounds of cheese, cases of salad and hundreds of strawberries. As the guests moved through the dining room to be served the spontaneous laughter that erupted when they saw us in costume made the air sweeter than even the thousands of pieces of candy we gave out. No one wore anything elaborate; a hat, a small mask, a wig, a funny nose, a scarf or festive clothing but the overall effect brought great joy that fed all of our souls.

Reflecting on the magic of that meal I realized how it highlighted what we do at Martins each and every day. Each of us does our small part; the cooking, the cleaning, the ordering, washing the dishes, opening the gate, watering the flowers, talking to the guests and breaking up fights, peeling the onions and cleaning out the compost bins. The list is endless. No one person could ever do all the things that need doing at Martins and yet, all together, no matter how small our task, we contribute to the "Whole" that is Martins. In that same way no one person can end injustice, stop wars, prevent suffering but in bringing our unique service to the world, whatever form it may take, in whatever place, we are all contributing as ONE.

What a wonderful gift it is that none of us alone can "do" anything! In humbling ourselves to seeing the big picture we forget our own selves and are reminded of our part in the whole. Our dear friend, Wally, who planted "Love's Garden" at Martins and died in 1994, used to say, "Doubt is the tomb of the heart." Never doubt that each and every one of us makes a difference. In a world so looking to be healed your own heart contains your own perfect seeds of service and joy. Never underestimate your own form of service. Never doubt what a balm to the spirit laughter is. Never deny that the drop you add might make the "cup runneth over".

Thank you all for the drop of blessing you bring to the world. We are so grateful and thankful this year that we go into the holiday season with enough materials and resources for the coming year. We can never thank you enough for all your support and prayers.

In light and love,

