

"We have all known the long loneliness, and the only solution is love and love is found in community. So we offer our guests community. We fail every time, but what else can we offer them?"----Dorothy Day

Thanksgiving 2013

Dear Friends,

Perhaps some of you have never had the opportunity to visit Martins when we are open and serving a meal to our guests. You might be wondering what it is really like. There are not many places in the world where there is such a combined sense of stability, harmony and hospitality. Your first thought upon entering through the large wooden gate might be that it feels so much like the home that you have always been looking for. Martins is one of those rare places with the grace of making everyone feel at home –it makes you feel so welcome that you can let go, be yourself, remember who you are.

Many people have discovered that Martins is a place where true friendships can grow in an environment of tolerance and natural beauty. They find it a joy to participate in that wondrous kinship which we begin to develop with strangers, simply by being together in a space that makes everyone feel at home. There is a deep sense of anxious homelessness that pervades our fractured and fragmented society. So many people alive today feel excluded, marginalized, and even invisible as they try to navigate a way of being in this world. Their rootlessness has engendered an inner homing instinct that guides them as they search for their true home.

A common sign of the spiritual journey of our times seems to be a real longing for a feeling of connection and mutual trust, for a place that nurtures community rather than division. Perhaps it is this inclusive sense of being at home with diversity that is the deeper meaning of hospitality, and the real vocation of Martins. So, in addition to food that nourishes the body, we also offer our guests a sense of community, which hopefully heals their broken souls as well as our own.

As we approach the 42nd anniversary of Martins existence we humbly acknowledge that we could not do any of this without your continued support and prayers for our work. Thank you for faithfully sustaining us in our desire to simply be a refuge, a sanctuary, yes a community of sorts for our guests. We are so deeply grateful to each of you. Each day we try to be mindful of what Barbara would want us to remember---At Martins we welcome each guest so that we can be healed. Isn't that the real gift hidden in community?

In God's light and love, the Martin's community.