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Unknowingly Entertaining ANGELS



—by Donna Curtiss
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Ever since Sister told us in first grade that we each had our very own Guardian Angel and I immediately but ever so discreetly moved over in my desk chair to make room beside me for mine, I've been fascinated by angels. As an adult, it is St. Paul's message to us in Hebrews 13: 1-2 that captivates me. St. Paul tells us to "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels."

The existence of Angels is a truth of faith in the Church. St. Augustine says that the nature of angels is 'spirit' and that if you seek the name of their office; it is 'angel.' Angels are further defined by St. Augustine as servants and messengers of God. It is interesting to put St. Augustine's thoughts together with St. Paul's message. To wonder, how many times might we have unknowingly entertained angels, been entertained by angels or perhaps acted as God's messenger.

It is my belief that just as saints walk among us, so do angels. At times it might be our guardian angel. Other times it might be that we become God's messenger for one another. All our lives are richly blessed by those we consider to have angelic qualities. I am blessed with a sister that everyone in our family considers one of God's special angels on earth.

There are times in all of our lives when we feel God calling us to act as his messenger on earth. We may feel prompted to make a phone call, send an email message or to share a meal with someone needing company. There are times when God calls us to reach outside of ourselves to do a special kindness for a specific person. Perhaps, a young mother who needs a babysitter for an afternoon out; an elderly relative or the caregiver of a relative who needs a break. Or, it might be a friend who needs someone to visit or to pray with them. Sometimes God prompts us to minister to a group of people. God may call us to care for children, seniors, caregivers, our parish, our community, or we may be called to visit those in the hospital, prison or to open our home to provide hospitality.

A dear friend recently shared her parents' hospitality ministry. Living in Annapolis, her Mom and Dad open their hearts and home to plebes and midshipmen from the US Naval Academy. Photos on display throughout their home bear witness to the 40 young people invited to join their family over the years. It's easy to imagine the comfort provided to these young people who trade homesickness for life in a warm, loving family atmosphere. This kindhearted hospitality is an important part of the faith we hand on to the next generation.

When we open our hearts to one another, we enable mutual love to continue. When we act as messengers of God's love, we unknowingly entertain countless angels.