



# Benedictine Bits

## Hospitality



Hospitality, in a Benedictine sense, is meant to go far beyond entertaining dinner guests or throwing a party. It is about creating an inviting space for the stranger, to offer warmth, acceptance, and joy in welcoming others from all backgrounds.

Hospitality is allowing room for change to take place within us and to be accepting of differences in others. Acknowledging this hospitality of the mind and heart leads to continual growth and understanding of “otherness.”

As described in the *Rule of Benedict*, hospitality instructs “all to be received as Christ.” One way the monastic members live this out in their daily lives is by a bow of the head to another as they pass by, which is a visual acknowledgement of Christ dwelling within each person. This emphasizes the importance of recognizing the divine in others. By extending Benedictine hospitality to people in our path, we become the hands that bring the love of Christ to those in need.