

1	<p>Symposium 2018 Presented to CIB By: Sr. Theodora Ntuli OSB</p>
2	<p>Let all become as Christ HOSPITALITY TO THOSE OUTSIDE THE CONVENT OR MONASTERY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Firstly what is hospitality?</u> <p>It entails the relationship between the guest and the host, or the act or practice of being hospitable. It is the practical part of charity that calls an individual to welcome others into one's life and home as they are and making them feel at home.</p>
3	<p>Hospitality requires</p> <p>Hospitality demands friendliness and purity of mind, soul, heart and body and mindfulness.</p> <p>It requires availability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to self ▪ to others ▪ to circumstances or events and ▪ to God. <p>If one's mind, body and spirit are polluted with prejudices, self consent, pride, greed, and all sorts of sinfulness, it is hard to be available, considerate, welcoming and present to reality, others and God.</p> <p>Lastly hospitality is love in action-giving without expecting returns.</p>
4	<p>Hospitality to the stranger</p> <p>There is a story that a prayerful woman invited Christ to her house. Christ came in the image of a stranger and was not welcomed.</p> <p>In 2009 shortly after we all went to bed, there was a loud knock on the convent door. Another Sister and I went to see who was knocking. Our night watch man brought a stranger who had a problem with his car.</p> <p>It was raining. We woke up our tractor driver to go with the watch man and pull the car out of the mud. They came back with the stranger and he wanted to thank us and pay for the kindness done for him.</p> <p>We did not take his money. He was very grateful and he became a friend of the Sisters.</p>
5	<p>Hospitality to the poor</p> <p>Daily we meet people who are materially poor. Some stand on the cross roads begging for food or money. Some they come to our Convent doors to borrow money or ask for work. They want to buy food or to send a child to the doctor or school. We listen to their stories and give them something to eat like tea and bread. We give to those who come to borrow we give and tell them not to return it. If we cannot help they appreciate the warm welcome and even thank us.</p>
6	<p>Hospitality to the pilgrims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make pilgrims feel welcomed by your presence. Show them the necessary facilities with kindness and respect. Listen to their questions and needs. Show interest in

	<p>what they are doing or saying. Share with them all about the place even about yourself. When they leave be there to bid them good bye.</p>
7	<p>HOSPITALITY TO THE MEMBERS OF FAITH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ People from our parish like to visit us after Mass. We welcome them to our dining room to have tea. Sometimes women like to talk about their family problems. We listen attentively and just be there for them. These conversations help them to find ways to handle family challenges. Sometimes they complain about the Priest's homily. We listen and question with understanding.
8	<p>HOSPITALITY TO MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In South Africa there are many religions and the number is increasing. All are welcome to take part in our celebrations and we seat them in a special place. Some do not eat hot meals on Saturdays, so we always prepare their meal on Friday. When a Sisters has died they come for the vigil and we invite them to say something or to pray. After the burial we all eat together.
9	<p>CHALLENGES OF HOSPITALITY</p> <p>Sometimes in my country, unlike in the past, it is a risk to welcome a person as Christ. Children are warned about "strangers danger".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hospitality can be a risk. For example, one Sister answered the door bell, and was short dead by a strange man. Another gave a lift to three young men. Sister was killed and thrown into the sugar cane fields. ■ Some people come to the Monasteries or Convents because they know that we simply give. They ask to be helped financially to buy food, instead they buy alcohol and drugs. Others come walking on crutches and once they leave the place they walk without them.
10	<p>HOW TO HANDLE THESE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Check first before opening the door if somebody knocks or rings the door bell. ■ Let us not give a lift to people you do not know and make sure that the doors of your car are always locked. ■ It is not advisable to stop when people try to make you to stop unless you know them. ■ For people who always come to the Convent or Monastery asking for food or money we visit their homes to see how they live. By so doing you will know whether the person is really poor. ■ Be a friend of all this kind of people and let them tell you their stories of how come that they are like that. ■ If you have some little jobs to be done in the Convent invite them to come and help. Give them something to eat and pay for the work they have done. ■ Help unemployed to get work.
11	<p>HOW TO PRACTICE HOSPITALITY IN THE CIB</p> <p>We do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ holding CIB conferences in our respective regions. This strengthens the bond between the host community and other regions. We do this by sharing hospitality

	<p>with the whole conference members by providing food and accommodation etc. We also share the History of Benedictine women of that region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Invite the delegate from other regions to come and give input on the working of CIB. Allow the visiting delegate to offer her suggestion that might help the region to develop. If one is a member of the family she can suggest without asking.
12	<p>CONCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Let all be welcomed as Christ for the honour and Glory of God not for my honour and for my glory. Thank you for listening.