As Catholics we are called to take concrete measures to overcome the misunderstanding, ignorance, competition, and fear that stand in the way of genuinely welcoming the stranger ... 

“Welcoming the Stranger Among Us”, Unity in Diversity Statement of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops

DID YOU FEEL WELCOMED?
- Did someone direct you on where to park?
- Did someone introduce him or herself?
- Did someone offer you handouts?
- Were you offered refreshments?
- Were you invited to make a name tag?

DID YOU FEEL WELCOMED? (CONT.)
How was your greeting as you arrived today?
- Staff and event organizers?
- Were the signs helpful?

What specifically made you feel welcome?

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOSPITALITY
- Personal Presence
  - Being with people
- An Inner Attitude
  - Hospitality as way of life
- Making Space
  - Physically, emotionally and spiritually
- Paying Attention
  - Listen to others with our heads, bodies and hearts

LONG-TERM STEPS TO DEVELOP HOSPITALITY
- Assemble & form a Team
- Assess current Reality
- Discern the Vision
- Develop a Plan for bringing the Vision and Reality into alignment
- Implement the Plan
- Assess the results for continuous improvement
THE PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST

Is there a parish committee charged with hospitality?
How effective and welcoming is your new parishioner program?
Are the Liturgy & Sacramental Programs hospitable?
(See handout) Are they well-communicated and flexible?

PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST (CONT.)

Is your signage appropriate?
Do you have greeters and ushers? Do they understand the difference?
Are buildings and grounds, especially areas of common use, accessible to all parishioners?

PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST (CONT.)

Does your parish embrace cultural diversity and hospitality?

Does your parish reach out to others in your community and the world?

PARISH HOSPITALITY CHECKLIST (CONT.)

Do you have a Ministry Fair to invite and recruit new people into parish ministries?

Are parishioners personally invited to participate on committees and commissions?

WE CAN HELP:

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION, DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

We have a Diocesan Booklet on Hospitality (handout).
We can meet with your Parish Council or Stewardship Committee to discuss Hospitality and ways to enhance it in your parish?
Go to: www.davenportdiocese.org

In-Service on Christian Hospitality
Presented by: Dr. Richard McCorry
Sunday, November 20, 2011
Creating a More Welcoming Parish 1-4 p.m.
Spirituality During Times of Change 5-8 p.m.
St. Patrick Church Iowa City