

God in Jesus invites show us incredible hospitality as He invites us to his table of abundance of goodness and love. And we are also to welcome at our tables those, who because of their physical, legal, economic or moral conditions, are excluded from bountiful tables. Jesus will be imitated by us, when everyone, especially the poor, the low, and the forgotten, are allowed to sit at the banquet of creation. God has set creation as a banquet with plenty for everyone: But some of us only want their friends and the people they feel comfortable with to sit and dine with them. Rather, God wants us all to enjoy and appreciate the bounty of a world with plenty of resources. Everyone is invited to the table of the Lord: And what happens in our Eucharistic celebrations is what is supposed to happen in the world. If we don't welcome one another here, we will never welcome one another in our nation. If we are not ready to love diversity here, we will never accept the diversity of our nation. If we are not humble servants of the poor here in church, we will never be able to love, care and serve the poor in our local area and in our nation. If we believe that the Eucharistic table is only for some of us, we will never understand that America can also welcome those who want to find a good job and good opportunities for life here.

Finally, some words about the Annunciation School in Minneapolis. A banquet in the Bible is a sign of how God wants us to spend our lives here on earth: It is all about brotherly love, a joyful celebration in which everyone is welcome, and a great meal is shared with one another. God created us, not to eliminate one another, but to love one another. The violence that is taking over the whole world is near us in many ways: The media, music, movies, books, games, daily conversations and interactions among us, and strong arguments to support discrimination against each other. America is a bountiful banquet. Only Jesus is the host. We must take a moment and ask, "In what ways could our parish and the whole of society be more obedient to Jesus and welcome with loving hospitality "the poor, crippled, lame, and blind" in our time and place?

We have to pray for the victims of this horrible violence in the whole world today, especially for our brothers and sisters in Minneapolis. And with our prayers, we also need to be more effective in promoting the love and respect that all forms of life deserve if we want the banquet to continue being bountiful. We are losing a generation eager to follow Jesus, because they don't see Jesus Christ in how we act and how we love. They don't experience God's love in how they are educated and cared for.

May Our Lady, Queen of Peace, bring our prayers for those affected by the terrible violence in Minneapolis into the hands of our Heavenly Father. Our prayers will provide healing and strength and hope to them. May we always be, instruments of peace in a world broken by hate and death. May we be always sources of healing love and hope for our brothers and sisters around us, especially for those who feel alone, ignored, abandoned, and forgotten. To change our society, we need to change our hearts. (All adapted from the Pulpit Source, by William H Willimon).