



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS

... HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME ...

The Eucharistic Harvest

Thanksgiving is coming soon.

What's your favorite dish at Thanksgiving? Maybe it's the stuffing that has a secret family recipe?

On normal days, what time was dinner on the table at your house growing up?

At our house 5:30 was the time ... and God forbid if you were late!

Ever hear comments like: "Your father comes home after working all day, and you show up late because you were out playing? Did you wash your hands? Let me see the forearms. go back and wash them too." This was all part of the mom "playbook" for dinner.

But on the other side if someone knocked on the door at mealtime, an invitation to come in "Have a seat, pull up a chair. there's plenty of room."

Let's not overlook the importance of the table.

As we enter harvest season—marked by corn, pumpkins, and fall leaves—it reminds us of the abundance of God's blessings. Yet, as Jesus said, "the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few."

Table to Table. We are a Eucharistic People

Food is central to both our daily lives and our faith. We gather often around tables, whether at home or in celebration, just as Jesus did. Jesus was a "foodie," using meals to connect, teach, and serve others. The Eucharist itself—meaning "thanksgiving" in Greek—is a meal of blessing, breaking, and giving, and it invites us to embody those actions in our lives.

The Table: A Place of Blessing, Brokenness, and Giving

The table is a place where we experience connection and spiritual fellowship. We remember God's blessings when we gather for meals. Yet, it is also a place of brokenness, where we, like Peter, find healing and restoration. Ultimately, we are called to be "given"—to serve others through hospitality and invite them to the table, just as Jesus did with the "notorious sinners." Prayer, fellowship, ministry! Sound familiar?

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A Missional Table

Before inviting people to church or faith, maybe we should invite them to dinner. The table, a simple place of nourishment, has the potential to be the most missional space in our lives. It's where we can embody the inbreaking of God's kingdom, sharing not just food but love, connection, and grace.

In our Vincentian tradition, we are a Eucharistic people—blessed, broken, and given. Let us give thanks, and let our tables be places of ministry and connection, reflecting Christ's love to the world . . . this Thanksgiving and every day.

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father Dan Thiess, C.M.