

Hospitality



When I was a kid, my friend Vinnie was a frequent visitor—coming over early and staying late. His mother suffered migraines, which put her in a bad mood. Our home was a haven for him. Years later we moved, and I said good-bye to my friends. One lucky day, I met Joe, who had seven siblings. I felt so welcome in his home that, decades later, when I visited his aging parents, I glanced behind their back door expecting to see my baseball mitt was still there. Hospitality recognizes and responds to the vulnerable state of the stranger. It's good for families to be close. It's even better when close families open their homes and hearts to others who need friendship and an occasional safe place to land. —Tom McGrath

STRONG CATHOLIC FAMILIES

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