

## PASTOR'S CORNER



*When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors.*

Jesus is not telling us to ignore or ruin our relationships with our families and friends but he is reminding us that the Kingdom of God is not about payment and repayment – it's not about us trying to live out a mutual life: I support you, you support me; I scratch your back, you scratch mine. That's how the normal earthly kingdom functions. The Kingdom of God is about us serving one another and especially serving those who are most in need: those who are in either a physical or spiritual sense *poor, crippled, lame, or blind*. And the Kingdom of God is about that service whether it is recognized or not; whether I ever get a return for it on this earth or not. And not only should we not be seeking to be paid back but our service is needed the most precisely where paid back cannot or will not happen.

That may be easy to see with those who lack on the material level – those who are physically *poor, crippled, lame, or blind*. But it applies equally to those who are spiritually *poor, crippled, lame, or blind* – and that is not so easy. We are called to love and serve those who are greedy; who get angry; who are too lazy or too busy to do the right thing; those who are upset at me because of something good in my life; and those who are filled with pride. We have to invite them – we have to love them and serve them and patiently strive to help them even though they may never return the kindness and may actually spurn us because of it.

When we, however, look at ourselves or at our past, we come to realize just how spiritually poor and crippled we can be – and how even ungrateful we may have been towards all the ways that God has reached out to us. And yet he still invites us to the banquet of his body and blood. May we do the same for each other.

In Christ, through Mary,

*Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP*