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# BETHANY HOUSE

## MISSIONARIES OF HEALING, HOPE, & JOY



### Poverty, Presence, Praise

In Scripture, Bethany is the home of Jesus' friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. It is a home where Jesus finds rest and communion, a place where the dead are raised, and a house of anointing. Bethany is both a model for the life of our community and a promise of what Jesus desires to do within and through us.

The home in Bethany models for us a life of Poverty, which bravely acknowledges weakness, woundedness, and need (John 11: 32); Presence, which cultivates a discipline of delight, transforming the ordinary, human, and mundane into moments of light and communion (Luke 10:38); Praise, which is the heart of the Bride, pouring out oil generously, tenderly, unreservedly on His feet (John 12:3).

Allowing ourselves to be seen in our poverty **heals** us and leads us to deeper security and freedom in Jesus. Seeking out the gaze of the Father in the ordinary infuses our hearts with an inexhaustible **hope**. Pouring out our alabaster praise is itself a promise and foretaste of the radiant **joy** of heaven. Poverty, Presence, and Praise are expressions of an authentic purity of heart—the unreserved openness of our entire being to God—from which alone the word can be spoken: Behold the Handmaid of the Lord; Behold, I come to do your will.

Bethany is a place of deep intimacy with Jesus where, anointed by the Spirit of the Lord, we may truly proclaim Good News to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, and lead captives to freedom (Isaiah 61:1-2).

## Prayer: The One Thing

*"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" | Luke 1:35*

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love... that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" | John 15:9, 11*

*"Our hearts are restless until they rest in you" | St. Augustine*

Prayer—our relationship with Jesus is the heartbeat and music of our lives. As we return to and rest in His gaze again and again, the truth of our identity and inheritance as daughters of the Father is rooted more and more deeply in our hearts. The vulnerability of this interior silence makes possible the intimacy we are made for. It awakens an expansive freedom in our soul, fills us with the everlasting light of hope, and marks us with unshakable joy. Overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, all things will be made new through Him who has loved us from before the foundations of the world.

## Community Life: A School of Love

As a household, we strive to imitate the communal life described in Acts 2:42-47.

*"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and following, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."*

Our community is not isolated, but nestled within a larger mission field; we recognize our call to be joyfully present and involved in the life of the local Church. Further, we are committed to the renewal of our minds through intentional human, spiritual, pastoral, & intellectual formation.

## PILLARS

- Poverty
- Presence
- Praise

## PERSONAL COMMITMENTS

- Minimum 30 minutes of Daily Personal Prayer
- Frequent Daily Mass
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Monthly Mentorship
- Spiritual Direction

## COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

- Weekly Community Meals
- Lord's Day
- Community Prayer:
  - Praise
  - Liturgy of the Hours
- Household Chores
- Chapter of Faults
- Business Meeting

## COMMUNITY CULTURE

- Culture of Prayer: We will regularly pray with and for one another and those we encounter.
- Culture of Blessing: We will speak life into one another and those we encounter through authentic affirmation.
- Culture of Hospitality: We will receive one another and those we encounter generously and attentively, serving one another in Christ.

*"And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles."*

Living under open heavens, we choose to be actively and radically open to the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to move freely in and through us. Confident in Him, we will boldly proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel of the Kingdom.

*"And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need."*

Living in the truth that every good gift is from above, we are committed to a spirit of poverty and generosity, both in our material possessions and our hearts. We desire to bring life by receiving one another with joy, as a gift.

*"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people."*

Hospitality is evangelistic, and so we choose to cultivate a home that is peaceful, joy-filled, and welcoming. We desire to invite others into a space of delight and celebration as a foretaste of the wedding feast of Heaven. As a community, we are committed to maintaining an ordered house and ordered relationships with one another.

*"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

We choose to live the apostolic call over our lives to make disciples of all nations through our individual mission commitments and as a community, through prayer, joyful hospitality, and direct proclamation of the Gospel.

## Living as the Bride: Freely in love

In all things, we seek to glorify Jesus and live a life worthy of the call we have received. In imitation of Mary, we give a joyful "yes!" to the known and unknown, trusting in His endless love. We pour out all our oil on His feet, freely in love, full of expectation and hope. We choose to live in His victory, resurrection, and anointing. With everything we are, as a Bride in love, we announce: *Behold the Lamb of God; behold the One we love!*

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.*

*Isaiah 60: 1-3*

St. John Paul the Great

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

St. Mary Magdalene

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

*ora pro nobis*

