

In a small town in Russia there was a shoemaker named Martin. His wife had died several years ago. He spent all his time in his basement shop mending shoes, making old beat up shoes look new. He was old now and he spoke with Jesus often during the day.

One evening after he had his supper he sat down in his easy chair. He began to nod off to sleep but then he heard a voice. Jesus was speaking to him. He said, "Martin tomorrow I will be coming to visit you." Martin was so happy as he fell asleep.

The next morning, he woke up and he was so excited. He thought, "Today Jesus is coming to visit me." Then he got to work mending shoes.

At about 10 o'clock he saw an old army veteran out on the street. He was shoveling snow and he looked frozen. He went to the door and invited the old man to come in and warm himself and have some hot tea. He came in and warmed himself.

Around noon a woman rushed into his shop. She was selling apples to make a living. A hungry young boy had come along and stole one of her apples. She dragged him into the shoemaker's shop and wanted the old man to scold him. He settled the two of them down and made peace between them and off they went being reconciled.

Then as it was beginning to get dark Martin saw a young woman out on the street. She had no coat and was freezing. She was cradling a baby in her arms. She had sold her coat the day before in order to feed her baby. He invited her into his shop and gave her some of his own food. Then he gave her his own coat and scarf and she left.

As night came Martin sat in his easy chair. He complained to Jesus saying "I thought you were coming to visit me today."

And then as he was falling asleep he heard the voice of Jesus once again. "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink, naked and you clothed me.

Martin fell asleep a happy man.

Every Sunday almost all of us receive Holy communion. It has become a habit, a routine. But because it is a habit and because we live in such a busy world it is easy to let our belief, our awareness grow dim, dull.

The spiritual life is about waking up, about becoming aware of the great love God has for us. It's about becoming aware once again that we are receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, Holy Community. Jesus gives Himself to us as our food. He wants to live in us and wants us to live in Him.

So today as you receive Holy Communion open your hearts to Jesus once again. Make Him your guest. Surrender your life to Jesus.

Jesus tells us, “If anyone loves me, my Father will love him and we will make our home in her.

If you take time every day, 10 or 15 minutes in silent prayer and read some verses from the Gospels it will help you so much in welcoming Jesus.