

Feast of Saint Luke
October 18, 2011 6:30AM

Jesus says to the apostles, "*Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'*"
"If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you."

If today is a typical day, at some point each of us will be looking for some "*peace*."
It may be as simple as closing our door to be alone for a minute, or not answering the phone to have a minute of quiet.

Or it may mean physically moving to a different place or putting aside whatever you're doing to do something less stressful or more fulfilling.

All of this is good, but it is limited.

With this kind of "*peace*", we are just making the world stop for a moment to get ourselves together and recharge our batteries.

The "*peace*" that Jesus is speaking about today is a bit more than that.

It is more than the absence of noise and conflict and stress.

The "*peace*" that Jesus offers is the bondedness that comes from mutual respect.

It is the oneness that comes from empathy for others.

It is the freeing that comes from forgiving or asking for forgiveness.

It is the wonder that comes from pausing to appreciate life and creation.

And it is the inner sense of quiet that comes from not just speaking but from listening to God in others, in our own core, or in Scripture.

In other words, the "*peace*" that Jesus offers is not just an absence of noise and stress and conflict.

In that sense, it is not something passive.

Instead it is something active, something that is created and maintained – something that we have a hand in making, and something that we cooperate with God in making.

So today, may we be not only seekers of peace but, by God's grace, may we also be creators of peace.