



**Digital Commons@**

Loyola Marymount University  
LMU Loyola Law School

---

Spiritual Essays

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

---

2013

## At Home

Fr. Randy Roche

*Loyola Marymount University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Roche, Fr. Randy, "At Home" (2013). *Spiritual Essays*. 324.

<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays/324>

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritual Essays by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@lmu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@lmu.edu).

## At Home

When we are in our home, in a place where we can expect rest and refreshment and where we can be ourselves without immediate concern for the expectations of those outside, we might have feelings of comfort and security. And, when we are away from the place where we live, we might also say that we feel at home if we are at ease in whatever environment we happen to be, or if we are secure in the position that we take up or are given.

Even in our own home, we do not always feel comfortable and completely confident. Whenever circumstances press in upon us, and our time and energy are taken up with stressful responsibilities, we might be quite conscious of challenges, discomfort or suffering, even if we gracefully accept the "call" that love places upon us. And yet, at a deep level, we are at home with the realities we face because we are conscious of being where we belong at this time and in these circumstances.

Feeling at home does not primarily refer to a specific location, but rather to an interior, spiritual experience. We cannot force ourselves to feel comfortable, secure or at ease with any particular person or situation. Rather, we notice the spontaneous affect that does or does not arise within us as we become either natural or strained in a relationship or set of circumstances. Though we might think that humans could not possibly feel at home with God, considering the vast difference between creator and creature, experiences of familiarity with God are both possible and normal.

We have no trouble walking into a room with people we know and respect, and who have a similar regard for us. God not only knows us completely, but loves us as we are. If we do not presently think or believe that we either have or can have experience of familiarity with God, we will do well to consider who else is in the room with us. Can we acknowledge that God is present wherever we might be at this moment? And, more importantly, is God worthy of our trust? If the answers are easy for us to supply, we might reflect on whether or not we have feelings of security and comfort in our relationship with God. Perhaps other words can better describe the experience of being at ease with God being God, and we being the persons we are.

If we have questions and doubts about whether or to what extent God is present and/or trustworthy, the surest way of resolving them is to open those thoughts and feelings to God. Our most trusted friends are usually those with whom we have risked talking about some of our innermost ideas

and affections. Through just such interactions with God, we come to experience feelings of being at home in the relationship.

God loves to be with us. We can, through ordinary every-day communication with God, come to realize that we at home with God.