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Come In!

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Come In!

When I lived in a University residence hall as a chaplain/ counselor, my automatic response to a knock on the door was to open it and welcome whoever came. Depending upon the circumstances of where we are, most of us prefer to give some of our time and energy to those who come to us. Of course we have limits and boundaries, but we usually have a strong preference for being helpful to those who come to us.

Can you imagine God not answering a metaphorical knock on the door? "Sorry, not now; I'm busy." With God, there are no boundary issues, no fear that we might cause harm; no possibility of our taking up too much time or "being a bother." We have heard or read the words, "Knock, and the door will be opened for you." (Luke 11:9) None of us would argue that the saying is false. But, are we wary of knocking?

We know some people to whom we can go at almost any time, and they will receive us, hear us out, and do what they can for us. We might be reluctant to call upon them in case we would be an imposition on their kindness; we may perhaps be embarrassed about appearing to show weakness, or unwilling to admit need. But when we trust friends, family members, other specific individuals, and some particular organizations, we do go to them when we cannot move ahead on our own.

We may possibly bring some of our hesitation-causing thoughts and beliefs to our relationship with God, and spend time questioning ourselves about our motivation, or considering at length a series of objections – all keeping us from knocking on the door. We do ourselves a favor by calling to mind three related considerations: our own willingness to respond to others' needs, the many positive experiences we have had when we have gone to someone for help, and the difference between God and all the other persons to whom we might turn.

We are familiar with both the natural manner we have of receiving and being received when there is some need for assistance. We are also aware of the many limitations that we all have as humans. When we focus our attention on one person, we cannot do the same for ten others, nor even for one other man, woman, or child. God created time, space, and energy as elements of an appropriate context for us humans, but is not bound by any of those restrictions. God is wholly

present to each of us, always, and more inclined to attend to us in our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual condition than even the dearest, closest person we know.

When we reflect on Who is on the other side of the door, we have every reason to expect that when we knock, we will hear, "Come in!"