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TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF FR. RIBES, S.J.
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Intent of these Notes:

This exercise is based on a fantasy on our home-life. Through such fantasy we may discover the 'hidden' values we, de facto, we live by.

Our homes are extensions of ourselves; the style of our home life clearly shows who we are , what we love, and what we cherish.

It can truly be said; "Let me stay for a while in your home, and I'll tell you who you are."

STEP ONE:

"If Jesus came to Your House to Stay" Take time reading this poem. Ponder over it. Take short notes of what strikes you most.

If Jesus came to your home to spend a day or two,
If he came unexpectedly, wonder what you'd do?
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest,
And all the food you'd serve him would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring him you're glad to have him there.
That serving him in your home is joy beyond compare.
But, when you saw him coming would you meet him at the door,
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let him in,
Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the T.V. or the video and hope that he had not seen or heard?
And wished you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus Walk right in, or would you rush-about?
And I wonder if the Savior spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would your family conversation keep its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say the table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read?
And let him know the things on which your mind and Spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd plan to go?
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?
Would you be glad to have him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they stay away until his visit ends?
Would you be glad to have him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when he at last was gone?

Keep Fantasizing

How do you talk to your neighbors today? How kind or unkind are you today to beggars and destitute people knocking at your door?

Keep Fantasizing

When you go out with Jesus, do you visit the same people you usually do?

Do you attend the same parties and to the same movies as before?

Do you still keep company with your everyday friends?

Do you visit the same places and spots you did before?

Do you dare to take Jesus wherever you go?

In Jesus company, how do you spend your money? As you usually do?

STEP THREE

Personal Check and Goal Setting:

1. What have you learnt about yourself? Your insights and discoveries? Describe.
2. Were Jesus to live with you and your family for a long time, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable? Why?
3. Would Jesus read what you read, watch the TV programs that you watch, drink what you drink, eat what you eat, etc.?
4. Would Jesus approve of your family prayers and your moral life?
5. Would he approve of your values and style of life? Why?
6. If you were you to live as he would, what things would you have to change in your life?

Goal Setting – Resolution

GO OVER WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN ABOVE

PERSONAL CHECK AND VERY BRIEFLY JOT DOWN WHAT YOU INTEND DOING FROM TODAY.

1> What I intend changing in my home to be more like Jesus

2> Steps toward my goal: The concrete steps I will take from now on to be more like Jesus are:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

3> Regular Checking Times:

Fix a regular date every month to check on how you keep your resolutions.

On the _____ of every month I will check on my resolutions.