

Rosee's Table - by Lorelei Pepe

There's a small vintage shop in Garfield, New Jersey call "This N That" where they sell slightly worn clothing and shoes for women and men. It is unique because when you walk in the store in the center is a huge dining room table and at one end sits this lovely older woman dressed to the "nines" with a hat and accessories to match her beautiful outfit. The table every week is filled with an assortment of food - from pizza to donuts to sandwiches, pasta and lots of cakes! Rosee has her friends and relatives sitting there - about 8 people and she always invites customers to partake of the food. One Saturday her daughter, Paola made tea sandwiches for everyone and is like a tea party celebration for all! They are both friendly and welcoming.

I can feel the warmth and caring the minute I walk in the door. Rosee always greets me with a big hello and smile and makes me feel like I am part of the family. She is a special, unique woman and has a huge heart to share with others. She had humble beginnings, raised 5 children practically alone and endured hardships but now in her 80's she is comfortable and feels richly blessed, to share her wealth with others. This is due mainly to her great faith in God.

This makes me think of Jesus at the Last Supper with his disciples. He was surrounded by his 12 disciples, breaking bread and drinking wine and praising God. Jesus invited all to be with him, from simple fisherman like some of his disciples. He saw no distinction between race and religion and class. Jesus attracted all that heard him speak like a magnet. And despite the fact that Jesus knew he was going to be betrayed by Judas, his disciple, he still carried on with love and faith. He knew his father in heaven was going to handle it all and trusted in him.

Rosee is a big believer in Jesus and shares his love with others. She is a good role model for us all. She invites everyone in and is very special woman to encounter especially in these times where people are so selfish and self-serving. She gives me hope like Jesus does, and she is being a disciple in her own way.

I wish more people would be like Rosee. I know Jesus would be very pleased with her if he was here today. I know I am and give thanks for meeting her along this journey we call Life.

Read Luke 22: 17-29 to find out more about Jesus and the Last Supper.