



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

April 2, 2019

Avoiding Spiritual Vegas

Sunday morning church parking lots can be dangerous places. In a hurry to exit, people can drive too fast, cut others off or not make way for others to back out or to get in line to leave the grounds. Sometimes it makes you think what happened in church stayed in church. That is why I call it a Spiritual Las Vegas. As understandable as they can be, our tradition calls us to avoid them. Instead, what happens in church, in our prayer life and our practice of virtue is meant to help us transform the world.

Spiritual Las Vegas can happen at work when the drive to succeed, a spirit of competition and the workplace values do not mirror our Christian values. A Spiritual Las Vegas occurs frequently when we compartmentalize our lives instead of seeking consistency in our lives of who we are and by whose values we live. A contemporary of St. Francis de Sales, Bp. Jean Pierre Camus, followed Francis around for months to learn how to be a good bishop. He was amazed that Francis was the same with the rich nobles as he was with the poor and marginalized. He said that he was the same when he was by himself as well. Camus came to take this as his personal definition for character. It was Francis' attempt to be who he was and to be that thoroughly well.

This week, think of your own definition of character. Let us live out the Salesian maxim to be who we are and do that well. We are called to do that, even in Las Vegas.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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