



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

May 13, 2019

(Spiritual) Geography

Growing up, many of us have special places. For me, some of them were Maury playground, Bishop Ireton High School and 802 Russell Road. I am one of five children, and the seven of us lived in a small three - bedroom, one bathroom house in Alexandria. Fortunately, we were next door to Maury School with its huge playground where we played every chance we had. It was the neighborhood gathering center and home to many imaginary basketball, football and other championships and Olympic titles. Bishop Ireton High School is where I met the Oblates and the beginning of my vocation. And, 802 Russell Road was home. Although we loved to be outside for play, it provided safety, security, and family.

In the spiritual life, geography is important as well. The Scriptures speak of the desert and mountains as places to encounter God. Jesus was tempted in the desert and encountered God on Mount Tabor where He was transfigured. For us, Mount Cavalry is a spiritual holy place as we give thanks for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

Many places lend themselves to a sense of awe and wonder and a deeper sense of God's presence. The beach, the mountains, the woods, beautiful vistas can all lead us to a deeper awareness of the holy and the wonder of our God. I think it is important to cultivate ordinary spiritual places. It might be a room in the house, the OLG chapel, a quiet car drive (if that is possible for our

parents), Wildwood Park, the W and OD trail to name a few. As humans, we are bound by time and space. In the Salesian tradition, we often speak of the importance of the present moment and living each moment well. The place also calls us to a sense of holiness and the wonder of creation and, especially, the God of love who created it and us all.

Live Jesus!

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