



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

July 23, 2019

There is no saint without a past nor a sinner without a future.

My godfather, my Uncle Dan, puts this quote at the end of all his emails. It is a comforting reminder. Yesterday, was the feast of St. Mary Magdalene. In the Scriptures, we heard that Jesus cast out seven demons from her, and that she became one of his followers. At the end of the gospels, Jesus appears to her before all others after his resurrection. She is entrusted with the message to take, first of all, to his disciples. Because of this, she is known as the "Apostle to the Apostles."

The Church tells us that we are always at the same time saints and sinners. Our greatest saints had a keen sense of this. Peter lived with his denial of Jesus. Paul commented frequently that he was the least of the apostles because he persecuted the Body of Christ. But the Lord would not allow them to live in guilt or shame about past activities, but to allow his grace and mercy make them compassionate about others' failings and confident in God's mercy and grace.

Most of us have past words or deeds which we wish we could change. Today's feast and the example of our great saints tell us that the Lord does not want us to live in guilt and shame but to seek his mercy and grace to be even more faithful in our call to bring others to Christ. Hopefully, part of that ministry is to others who feel that they are not worthy of God's love, forgiveness or mercy because of some past indiscretion or sin. May the example of our

great saints be the witness to us and them that our God and God's love and mercy are far greater than any of our sins and indiscretions. What a God we have!

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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