



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

August 13, 2019

One of my favorite college classes was a class on French culture. We began with the study of French architecture, and gothic cathedrals played a major role. I loved flying buttresses and gargoyles, but I was more impressed with the stories of artisans who added a small addition to the cathedral: artwork at the top of columns or decorative flowers and animals to adorn the walls. The higher the cathedral rose, the more obscure but important the work of these artisans became. Almost all of them never lived to see the completion of the cathedral, and there is no plaque to record their participation. Yet, they all had the satisfaction of knowing that they were playing a part in a grand effort to produce a magnificent church to give praise and glory to God.

Moses led the people from slavery in Egypt but did not lead them into the promised land. I can only imagine Moses' sadness, that after all he had done to lead Israel from slavery in Egypt and begin their journey, it would be Joshua who would lead them to their goal. Growing up in the DC area we cheered for George Allen who helped to turn the Redskins' franchise around, but it was Joe Gibbs who led them to their Super Bowl victories. Hope often lives side by side with sadness and frustration.

All of us begin adulthood with dreams and hopes. As we age, we are called in humility to be grateful for realized dreams and hopes. Yet, most of us also have partially realized hopes and maybe some dreams never came true. In faith and love, Moses encouraged Joshua and the people to journey on with confidence in his absence. Hope is the realization that we play a part in God's plan and that we are called to encourage others to seek God's grace to be a part of the fulfillment of the plan that we did not finish and of which we were not a part. Hope is in the middle of the list of the three theological virtues. St. Francis de Sales uses the image of the little sister holding the hands of faith

and love. Be faithful, be loving and live in hope to give strength to our faithful and loving lives.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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