



OUR LADY *of*  
GOOD COUNSEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Fr. Matt's Musings

### September 4, 2019

This Year's Theme

*All through love, nothing through force or fear. (SFS)*

This quote from St. Francis de Sales came from his time as a young priest. He volunteered for missionary ministry in a part of France called the Chablais. During the Protestant reformation, this area had been converted largely to Calvinism. Francis was part of the Catholic reformation, and he set out to spread the Catholic faith in that area. During his time, the most popular method was to force people to become the religion of their rulers or to belittle another's religion and warn people of eternal damnation if they did not convert. Francis was convinced that force and fear were not Christian tactics. His approach was to show through loving actions and preaching the truth of the faith. His method won over tens of thousands of converts.

Fear is a true challenge to love. It is difficult to be a fearful lover. However, there are times when love and fear can coexist in the human heart. It is not easy to challenge the actions of those whom we love. It is very difficult to forgive and move on. What if my challenge is not heard in the loving way I intend? What if I am hurt again by one whom I love? Love does not mean that fear disappears, but it is the courage to love even in the face of discouragement, disappointment or even the need to forgive again.

Choose love. Living with fear is its own reward.

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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