



OUR LADY of
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Matt's Musings

November 12, 2019

*Even though I am experiencing pain, I do not have to be one.
Maya Angelou*

*Always be grateful, and when you cannot, at least be gracious.
Richard Carlson*

Salesian gentleness asks us to make peace with ourselves, with others and with life. I find that one of life's challenges and obstacles is the need to be in control. So often in the spiritual life, the mantra is "Let go." Let go of the need to control, to be in charge, to be your own master of the universe. In place, try to practice life according to a bumper sticker I once saw, "If God is only your co-pilot, switch seats." The poet Billy Elliott stated, "If you want to make God laugh, make plans."

Francis de Sales was very much a planner. He asks us to prepare our day every morning. Think of all that will take place that day, and try to prepare for the major moments, encounters and possible difficulties and how you will try to be your best self in each of those moments. Then, put the rest in God's loving hands, knowing that neither you nor I can control the day itself. Gentleness calls us to respond to the predictable, but above all the unpredictable, with the very best of who we are. Each day seems to throw us curve balls. We cannot control the curves, only the gracious way we respond to life's twists and turns. May we always strive to be the best of who we are, especially at the moments where that is challenged the most.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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All through love, nothing through force or fear.

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