



OUR LADY of
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Matt's Musings

December 9, 2019

ZIP Codes

The zip codes 22182 and 08102 at first seem to be worlds apart. Numerically, they are separated by 14,080 numbers. Personally, they represent my most two recent assignments: here in Vienna, Virginia and previously in Camden, New Jersey. Geographically, economically, ethnically and socially they are very different on the surface based on the poverty, crime, drug trade and racial, ethnic picture of the two cities. However, at another level, the two zip codes are more similar than first appears. Both zip codes contain the numbers two, one and eight. Both zip codes house many good and faithful people who share many of the same hopes, dreams and aspirations: to love and be loved; to be known and accepted; to be forgiven and forgiving; to find meaning and purpose in life and to pass on a bright future to the next generation.

The Advent season speaks to us about hopes, dreams and aspirations and a God who keeps promises, especially the promise to offer us love and life now and forever in Jesus. It also speaks to us about zip codes. The common zip code is our calling to be with God forever and whatever heaven's code is. Whether we live in Vienna or Camden we have the same God, the same mission to live daily the gospel of love and to support, build up and see all as our sisters and brothers. One of our goals is to lessen the economic and social differences that exist and seem to separate us from one another. We cannot eliminate the geographical distance between us, but we certainly can work to make sure that we fight injustice to eliminate the poverty and bias that at times impact the ability to see and call all a sister or brother.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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