



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Matt's Musings

January 7, 2020

70-99

One of the early French lessons is learning to count. Counting in French is very similar to English until you get to the number 70. 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 all have distinct, individual words for them, but to count from 70 until 99 is more like a math problem. Instead of a distinct number for 70, the French say:

(70) soixante-dix = sixty-ten
(71) soixante-onze = sixty-eleven

Eighties and nineties are even more fun:

(80) quatre-vingts = four twenties
(88) quatre-vingt huit = four twenties eight

(90) quatre-vingt dix = four twenties ten
(98) quatre-vingt dix-huit - four twenties eighteen

The good news is when you arrive at one hundred, the math problems end. One hundred is "cent." In my spiritual journey, I have had moments of 70-99 when I have fallen back on what is known, familiar, comfortable in order to move forward. Thankfully, I have also had moments of one hundred (cent) and looked for new ways of understanding, thinking, acting, praying, loving and living.

I believe that integrating both 70-99 moments in life and 100 moments are important. It is dangerous to be too comfortable or safe and not be open to other options and possibilities. It is also not realistic to seek always what is new and different. Honor what is, what has helped you become the person you are and always open yourself to the possibility of what is new, unexpected or different. Remember, our works through what is familiar and those who are closest to us. However, our God is also the God of

surprises and acts in unexpected ways and through surprising people.

Live Jesus! (Vive Jesus!)

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