



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

June 4, 2020

The intersection of Prince and South Washington Streets

Yesterday, there was a historic moment in my home town of Alexandria, Virginia. Growing up in the '60s and '70s, my family would pass by the above-mentioned intersection at least weekly and always on Sundays en route to St. Mary's Church. The intersection was noteworthy or notorious for the presence of the statue of a Confederate soldier. The statue faced south, and I was taught that was because the south would rise again. Yesterday, that statue was removed. Today in Richmond, a statue of Robert E. Lee will be removed. The south, north, east, and west need to always rise to affirm the dignity, respect, and value of every person of every color.

I have been and continue to be baffled by those who say race is not a major issue in our country. The death of George Floyd is just the latest in the racial injustice and tension that continues in our great nation. The fight against racism must continue as well as the call for justice, but also for peace and order instead of rioting and looting. As I often say, Our Lady of Good Counsel is a church on a hill, at the top of Wolftrap Road. We cannot be hidden. Our light must shine. I ask us to examine our hearts to root out any bias or prejudice that may exist there. Whether it is based on color, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, gender, or sexual orientation, any and all prejudice or bias is a sin. All are God's children, beloved sons, and daughters to their Creator.

Ironically, today's Mass readings reminded us of the great commandment to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourself. Luke reminds us in his gospel in the parable of the Good Samaritan that our neighbor is the next person whom we encounter: black or white, Catholic or Muslim, Democrat or Republican or straight or gay. Love one another as Christ has loved us.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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All through love, nothing through force or fear.

Fr. Matt sends a regular "Musings" email to share his thoughts with the OLGCC Community. You're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in these messages. Please add frhillyard@olgcv.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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