



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

June 16, 2020

Outside the administration building, there is a row of four crepe myrtle trees. There are so many trees on the property that I do not always notice them except collectively. About two months ago, I walked outside and noticed that the crepe myrtles were completely bare. They looked like fingers sticking up out of the earth. I do not know much about plants and wondered what had happened. I feared that they had died. I was particularly worried about the reaction of the families who had dedicated those trees in memory of deceased loved ones.

To my relief, I was assured that crepe myrtles need to be stripped ("crepe murder" I found out) so that they may bloom beautifully. The stripping bare of crepe myrtles, the peeling of an onion, etc. are images of our spiritual journeys and the need to strip bare, peel away bad habits and all that prevents us from blooming beautifully. In John's gospel, Jesus uses the image of the vine and the branches and the pruning of the branches to bear more fruit.

In these stay at home days, I hope we reflect on our own need to be pruned in order to become even more faithful disciples. I know that I have insecurities, anxiety, a lifelong battle with patience as some of the areas that need to be stripped away. Please look at the crepe myrtles the next time you are on the campus and look at the beautiful branches and leaves that are returning. Make that a symbol of the ways all of us are called "to bloom where we are planted" (SFS).

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 OLGC 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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