



OUR LADY *of* GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings August 11, 2020

Relentless

With the rising numbers of those who have contracted the Coronavirus, its effects on the economy, the personal toll it takes on people's relational lives, and the ongoing anxiety it produces, the word that comes to mind for me about the virus is relentless. Relentless can have a negative tone to it. The same can be said of its presence in the spiritual life. Impatience is a lifelong struggle for many. For others, it can be fear or anxiety or anger. For those who suffer from an addiction it may be the struggle to remain sober.

The good news is that relentless is present in the spiritual life with a very positive meaning. God is relentless in pursuit of us. St. Francis de Sales reminds us that God is always present to us. Not even our sinful actions can change God's loving stance toward us. The prophets constantly remind Israel of how precious they are to God and their call to be God's chosen people. Think of Jonah and the great lengths he goes to avoid God's call and God's ceaseless pursuit. Luke shares with us the image of a loving father who faithfully and actively waits for his prodigal son's return. Jesus' first gift to His disciples after the resurrection is the gift of peace, despite their abandonment of Him at the time of His betrayal, denial, suffering, and death.

Relentless has both a positive and a negative sense to it. Let us always give thanks for the relentless nature of our God for the love and mercy who God is and His loving and saving presence with us, especially as we weather a pandemic.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

frhillyard@olgcv.org

All through love, nothing through force or fear.

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