



OUR LADY *of*  
GOOD COUNSEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Fr. Matt's Musings**  
August 22, 2020

*Potato and Tomato*

Many of us have heard of the disagreement over how to pronounce these two words: long “a” or short “a” sound in the middle. The same can be said of some peoples’ names. Yesterday was the feast of St. Bernard. Along with St. Francis de Sales, he is one of only thirty-something Doctors of the Church. There is the same disagreement over the pronunciation of his name. Some pronounce it like the breed of dog that shares his name. Others pronounce it “Burr-nerd.” St. Augustine shares the same discussion. Some pronounce his name like the city in Florida, and others closer in sound to the famous golf course that houses the Masters.

No matter how you pronounce either name, what is more, important is their contribution to the Church to help us understand living the Christian life more fully. Sometimes we can get lost or sidelined in what is not most significant and important. I know of heated discussions where in the end, neither party could remember the original reason for the discussion. The need to be right should never supersede the respect for the person with whom we are discussing or replace the focus on what is most essential for our faithful Christian living. One’s character should always be at the heart of an encounter and not how the other looks or sounds. One’s dedication to Christ and the Church should be honored even if we disagree over non-essential aspects of faith. Love requires this of us.

**Live Jesus!**

*Fr. Matt*

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*All through love, nothing through force or fear.*

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