



OUR LADY *of*
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings
August 26, 2020

In Christ - Stronger Together

Each year, we choose a theme to guide us throughout the year. This year, we have chosen: "In Christ, Stronger Together." My thanks to Adrienne Jewett for the stronger together part of the theme. In the midst of a pandemic, economic uncertainty, and racial tensions, this theme seems to have even more urgency and importance. I would like to add a few suggestions for us to live this theme.

1. The list of apostles. Each of the gospels tells the story of the calling of certain apostles: fishermen, tax collectors, and also brothers, but each also adds later a listing of the twelve apostles by name. It is interesting that in Matthew's listing, he mentions that he is a tax collector, and the other Simon (not Peter) is a zealot. This is important because they could not be more different. Zealots were just that in their desire to be free from Roman occupation. Tax collectors were despised for their siding with Rome and collecting and, at times extorting money from their own people. In Christ, enemies could set aside their differences to focus on His ministry. What a great model for us when we find those who think differently from our way of thinking, to focus on our call to serve in Christ's name, and not vilify or dismiss others.

2. Language. I love language, its nuances, and the uniqueness of words from one language to the next. I ask us to be careful in our choice of words because they have the power to build one another up or, at times, to tear another down. Sticks and stones can break bones, but words can also do unspeakable damage. My final point will be an example of a word change for our community.

3. Investment. In our parish community, we have various ministries: Liturgy, Faith Formation, OLG C School, Outreach, and Fellowship. Each of the ministries has dedicated parishioners who help us fulfill our mission: teachers, catechists, lectors, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, and so many others. We are so blessed by the generosity of so many. The parish financially supports our ministries. An unfortunate term has been used to say that we "subsidize" these ministries. I ask us to use the word "invest" because that is much more accurate. We invest in our parishioners and their efforts to minister to our members and those outside our community.

Especially now, with all that is happening in our world, let us remember that in Christ, we are stronger together. Thank you for making OLG C such a special community and let us pray that together, Christ makes us even stronger.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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@olgcva.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox! If you know someone who would like to be added to the list have them email communications@olgcva.org.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Community
www.olgcva.org

