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GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings
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The Partitive

When I began to study French, I realized that an unknown benefit was that I came to understand English grammar better. One of those areas is the partitive. In English, we say bread or water, wine or butter. It is a general, unlimited statement. In French, there is always a qualifier. One says some bread, some water or some wine or butter. It is not reasonable to speak of bread as if it were all bread.

I think that "some" - the partitive - is so important in life. It is easy to imagine and hope for all the love that someone has to offer, all the success or dreams that I can achieve in life. Life is a great teacher to remind us that just as we can have some bread, some wine or some success, some fulfilled hopes and dreams, there is always some disappointment, some unrealized dreams or hopes, and some failure in this life.

Some is a great word. It points us back in all humility to the God who loves us without any partitive. God's love is unconditional and unlimited. That is so important to remind us when we love in our limited way and also fail in our limited, human way. Humans live in a partitive world. Thankfully, our God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and compassion have no limits.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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In Christ - Stronger Together

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