



OUR LADY *of* GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings January 20, 2021

Differences vs. Divisions

One of the common words to describe our times and us as a people is "divided." Politically, socially, religiously, racially, and economically there are strong divisions that exist among us. Words are important. Divisions can be a loaded word. It can lead to dismissing others or judging others because we are on different sides. It can also suggest that the divide is too much to bridge: Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative, CNN or Fox News, and similar titles and categories can be used for Church members. For me, I see a danger that it can also be used as an excuse for not talking or trying to understand one another.

I prefer to speak of differences. This week, we celebrate Christian Unity. There are many traditions within the Christian community, and differences in liturgical celebrations and beliefs are real. But it says a lot that we set aside a week each year to pray for and work for unity in Christ. It would be unrealistic to believe that because we are all members of the Catholic Church or OLGC parish that we are of one mind and one heart on all issues. We certainly have our differences. The key is not to judge or dismiss others because they do not agree with me. In the listing of the disciples, Matthew is mentioned as a tax collector and Simon, a zealot. In every way, they should not be together. They are dreaded enemies. But they can deal with their differences because they see the importance of being united in Christ. If they can do that, it seems OLGC can do the same!

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

frhillyard@olgcv.org

In Christ - Stronger Together



Evening Prayer

Prayer for Christian Unity

Reminder evening Prayer for Christian Unity tonight at 7 pm. We invited the Vienna Christian Churches to join us in prayer. Please join us in person by signing up to attend www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044ea8a72ea7fc1-evening or join us via live-stream at www.olgcv.org/Live or on YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCjlaNF7IY4IrWCgSVzVtDw.

Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God (cf. Psalm 141:1).

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

