



OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings September 9, 2021

Scars have the strange power to remind us that our past is real

When I was about eight years old, my friend Mark O'Donnell and I went to slide down the hills of the Masonic Temple in Alexandria. We were pretending that the enemy was pursuing us. On one of those slides, I must have hit the head of an underground sprinkler, and it ripped open my left leg. That remains my first physical scar. Physical scars are a roadmap of the pains, hurts, and blows we have suffered during our life journey. Those scars are real.

Emotional and spiritual scars are more insidious. They are not always visible; however, they are usually deeper and hidden from sight. The pain of loss and separation, the experience of loneliness, fear, and isolation are also very real for many. They also leave scars on our spirit and our soul. They can rob us of the life and love to which we are called. The good news is that scars can be a sign of healing and progress.

This Saturday, our nation remembers a national scar. It is the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our nation. It was a day of fear, confusion, disbelief, great sadness, and anger. For those of us who lived through it, especially here in the DMV, in NY, and in Pennsylvania, it is one of those life experiences we will not forget. Twenty years later, there are many who do not have that experience of the day. Hopefully, it will always be a day of remembrance, reflection, and prayer. We continue to pray for the victims who lost their lives that day and those who tried to save them. We pray for those who continue to mourn their loved ones.

This September 11th, in memory of the 20th anniversary of the attacks, I ask us to try to make our scars a sign of healing and hope. We do not forget what happened, nor the horror and evil of the actions of that day. We cannot forget the senseless and tragic loss of life. The first followers of Christ witnessed the horror and tragedy of the cross that changed their lives, only to be challenged by the good news of the resurrection. As disciples, we are called to hope, love, and fight for justice even in the face of great injustice. I would like to conclude with the closing paragraph from a prayer from Pope Francis about the 9/11 attacks on his visit to Ground Zero:

"In this way, the lives of our dear ones will not be lives which will one day be forgotten. Instead, they will be present whenever we strive to be prophets not of tearing down but of building up, prophets of reconciliation, prophets of peace."

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

frhillyard@olgcva.org

Moving Forward Together in the Service of God

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

