



# OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Fr. Matt's Musings April 4, 2022

### *Kindness*

Dr. Paul Farmer died earlier this year. Much of his life was dedicated to bringing medical and health care to the poor, underprivileged, and often forgotten. One of his primary outreaches was to the people of Haiti. During my eight years in Camden, I was impressed by the number of people who came to the city to be part of its healing and rebirth. Some volunteered for a set amount of time; others dedicated their lives or a significant part to improving conditions and hope for the people of the city. In his work in Haiti, Dr. Farmer had one non-negotiable for the workers and volunteers who came to help - they had to dedicate themselves to kindness at all times.

Kindness is a basic virtue. It is one of the monthly virtues for the students at OLGC to practice. It also seems to be a lost or forgotten virtue. Kindness is not found when there is labeling, presumed ill will, rash judging, dismissing or disrespecting, and a lack of civil discourse. Our world could be different with a rededication to basic virtues: kindness as a non-negotiable would be a great place to start. If 520 Pre-schoolers through 8 grade can set aside a month to practice and be reminded and encouraged to practice it each day, how much more for all of us to do so as well.

In the 1970s, President Ronald Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill did not agree on everything. They publicly disagreed without vilifying the other. In fact, it was common for them, a Republican and a Democrat, to sit down on a Friday and have a beer or drink to get to know each other and enjoy one another more. Kindness does not sound so difficult. Let's not limit it to a Friday happy hour, but it might be a good place to start.

### **Live Jesus!**

*Fr. Matt*

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*Moving Forward Together in the Service of God*

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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](mailto:frhillyard@olgcva.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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