



OUR LADY *of*  
GOOD COUNSEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Fr. Matt's Musings January 22, 2022

### *Two "C"s of Humility*

St. Francis de Sales loved to speak of the little virtues: humility, gentleness, simplicity, and patience, to name some. He loved them because he believed these are the ones we are called to practice every day, and he loved humility above all.

The First Reading for daily Mass recently has focused on David. He is a complicated figure. He is an unlikely choice for king, at least in the prophet Samuel's eyes. He is an unlikely hero for Israel against the Philistines as a skeptical king Saul allows him to challenge the giant warrior Goliath. After David's victory, Saul is jealous of David's fame and wants to kill him. As king, David has an affair with Bathsheba, the wife of his good friend, Uriah, who is off at war. When Bathsheba is found to be pregnant, Uriah thwarts David's secret plot to hide his sin by bringing Uriah home from battle in an attempt to have him have relations with his wife, and hopefully cover up his own transgression. When his plot fails, David sends Uriah back to the front lines with a written order that ensures his death in battle.

The Scriptures do not hide the height of human goodness: the capacity for love, generosity, compassion, and mercy, nor do they ignore the depths of human weakness and sin: violence, hate, jealousy, lust, or rage. The Salesian view of humility calls us to remember two important "c"s in our reflection on our own complicated humanity: consolation and challenge.

Consolation is the reality that God understands the heights and depths of being human and chooses to love us at every moment as we are and who we are. Paul tells us that God cannot deny Himself, so the God of love will always be faithful in God's love for us. That means we are loved in our finest hours but no less in our worst moments. What a God we have! Let us always take consolation that God forgives even what we find hard to forgive in ourselves.

The second "c" is challenge. Consolation does not give us a free pass to act out of our lower nature but a challenge to be our best selves in gratitude and imitation of our God who is love and Christ, the face of that love. I once saw a bumper sticker, "Jesus came to save sinners; I plan to make it worth His while!" We should be consoled that through Jesus, we are saved through love. Our challenge is to accept the call to live out of our higher nature and make love the hallmark of our daily living.

**Live Jesus!**

Fr. Matt

[frhillyard@olgcva.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@olgcva.org).

---

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic  
Community** [www.olgcva.org](http://www.olgcva.org)

