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GOOD COUNSEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Fr. Matt's Musings

### May 12, 2018

On May 10, 1979, the Boston Bruins seemed destined to end a long domination by the Montreal Canadiens in the the Stanley Cup playoffs. In game seven of the Conference Finals, they led the Canadiens by a goal with three minutes to play. Then, the Bruins were penalized, and Guy Lafleur scored a power play goal and the Canadiens won in overtime. The long drought continued. Eventually, the Bruins did end the drought and beat the Canadiens in the playoffs. Many teams have had similar breakthroughs: The Lakers over the Celtics, the Red Sox over the Yankees and more recently the Capitals over the Penguins. The thing about breakthroughs is that they do not always last.

In the spiritual life, similar strangle holds can exist. The power of fear, anxiety, sadness, doubts, physical suffering can be crippling. Breakthroughs can be overcoming one of these forces but more often I find that the breakthrough is to tame a force that is strong. Courage is not a lack of fear but the decision to act, to love, to live even in the face of fear. Peace does not mean that we do not have worries or anxious moments but that we find a way to live with confidence even with the presence of those worries. Making peace with and laughing at ourselves and these forces can lessen their power over us. The seven weeks of Easter are the reminder that as an Easter people, we are called to choose to be joyful, optimistic and live with confidence, knowing that we know the end of the story. Love and life win.

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

[frhillyard@olgcv.org](mailto:frhillyard@olgcv.org)  
[www.olgcv.org](http://www.olgcv.org)

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