



May 4, 2018 Fr. Matt's Musings

Salesian Gentleness

Yesterday, I had an appointment with my new eye doctor. I mention this because I know that many of us have some level of nervousness or dread when a visit with a certain doctor approaches. It is the dentist who comes up in many of these conversations. I have been blessed with good teeth, so the dentist is not an issue for me. But, I have a phobia, an irrational fear about anything near my eyes. The lights and machines that come near the eye are not a big problem, but that puff of air that blasts into the eye is enough to make me consider passing on that important appointment.

Salesian gentleness reminds us that all of us have weaknesses, fears, faults, failings and growing edges. Just like our doctor issues, we all do not share the same weaknesses. Francis simply calls us to support one another, build one another up at these moments. It would be easy for me to dismiss others' dread of the dentist since I have been blessed with few teeth issues. But why would I do that when I have my eye phobia? Jesus asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and understand. What sage advice in a climate when so many want to dismiss others simply because they do not share the same opinions and thoughts as they themselves hold. Gentleness does not require that we agree with others, but it asks us to respect the image of God in each person we meet.

*There is nothing as strong as gentleness;
nothing as gentle as true strength. (SFS)*

I ask for your gentleness. You may have noticed that the header of this musing is different. The date is first followed by the title (Fr. Matt's Musings). Let us give one another a break, another

chance, the benefit of the doubt. Hopefully we have faith that our loving God treats us that way.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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