



OUR LADY *of*  
GOOD COUNSEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Fr. Matt's Musings

### November 25, 2018

It is Sunday night of Thanksgiving weekend. I spent the holiday with my family and then drove to see a good friend on Friday in Pennsylvania. On Saturday, as I drove back to Vienna, in holiday traffic, I was reminded of the power of control. Drivers in the left lane who do not pass, drivers who cause miles long back-ups by almost stopping to look at a flat tire in the shoulder lane (yet they do not move over to help), and the list could go on and on. In our area, traffic is an ongoing issue. There seems to be no non-rush hour on the beltway or 66. Traffic is one example of my lack of patience and need to control.

Our tradition reminds us that God is the one who is in charge. It is a humbling lesson for me. In the Salesian tradition, St. Francis reminds us that our loving God guides, directs and continues to inspire and help us in our daily lives. Control is a human concept. My, and at times, our need to be in control is our need to be in charge and to feel that we have power over the destiny of our lives. This illusion is broken by the ongoing events of life. The spiritual life is a dance between doing all that we can to be an active lover and follower of Christ and also a true disciple who knows that the master craftsman is ultimately in charge. Our health, our power to protect our loved ones, the time we have here on earth, are all beyond our control. What we can control is our response to every situation and encounter to "Live Jesus" at that moment and to let the very best of us shine. Humbly, I ask myself to remember that in the next traffic inconvenience, or the next moment beyond my control, not to let my traffic thoughts take hold. Let's remember that for traffic, golf or all those other out of our control moments, ours is the call to patience that God is in charge and we are to be faithful disciples, even in a beltway backup.

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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