



Fr. Matt's Musings
December 16, 2016

Reflection

I was born in early January, just when the days were beginning to get longer. This time of year is hard for me because each day gets shorter, and there is more and more darkness. It is ironic that earlier this week we celebrated St. Lucy (light) and then St. John of the Cross, who is known for the "dark night of the soul." Too often in the spiritual life, we associate darkness with a negative: doubt, uncertainty, lack of trust and faith, confusion, etc. We even give the name "doubting" to the apostle Thomas, because he was unwilling to believe in Christ's resurrection until he saw Jesus' wounds. What we sometimes lack to affirm is Thomas' deep proclamation of faith in Jesus when he saw those glorified wounds and then proclaimed, "My Lord and my God." There is no more profound acclamation of who Jesus is in all of Scripture, and it is born out of a moment of darkness.

The days will continue to shorten until the winter solstice in less than a week. Take these days to think about your own moments of doubt, your questions, and your lack of clarity - your dark moments. Do not be afraid of them or see them as moments of weakness, but more as an invitation to a deeper time of trust and faith that God waits for us in that darkness. God's promise is to be with us and to walk with us. Sometimes we are given the clarity of the way ahead, but other times we are only given the light of the next step. Either step is guided by the God who loves us beyond measure. Trust that the God who loves you walks with you in moments of light, and especially in moments when you experience darkness, and trust that God is your light.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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