



Fr. Matt's Musings

December 29, 2017

OOPS!

In the summer of 1980, I had the privilege of working at the United States Capitol as a tour guide. Each day, I greeted tour groups in the Capitol Rotunda, directly below the formidable dome. We did not go outside of the Capitol for these tours, but on top of the nine million pound dome, there stands Freedom Emancipated, a nineteen foot statue, sculpted by Thomas Crawford in honor of his daughter who served as its model.

In my training for the tours, I was told that the irony of this grand statue is that she faces east, in the belief that the expanse of the city would take place in that direction. While it is true that expansion did go east, I think most people associate Washington with the White House, the National Mall, the monuments, museums, embassies, the Smithsonian, and the other most visited tourist sites which are mostly found in the western part of the city. Freedom has her back to those sites. Oops, the best laid plans can go west instead of east.

This weekend, we give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received this past year. Humbly, we also strive to make amends for the times we have hurt others. As a part of that reflection, let us also review the seeming unanswered prayers and oops moments when life took us west instead of east. Hopefully, we have lived these moments faithfully and with confidence. Remember, "If you want to make God laugh, make

plans." May we be open to living well the oops moments of 2018 and the unexpected turns we will inevitably take. Happy New Year!

Live Jesus!

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