



Fr. Matt's Musings

January 20, 2017

Liberating Love

Over the next three weeks, I would like to reflect on aspects of divine love. The first of these is liberation. The lived experience in both the community of Israel and in Jesus' community is that we first meet God as Liberator. The Jewish people continue to celebrate annually the Passover, the liberation by God of Israel from slavery in Egypt. It is an ongoing liberation of all that binds us: sin, fear, anxiety and all that prevents us from being free to love. In the New Testament, we find our annual celebration in the Paschal Mystery: Jesus' life, suffering, death and resurrection that liberates us. It is the ultimate victory of life over death and love over sin and evil.

Where do we need God to liberate us? What binds us and prevents love from flowing more freely through us: fear, anxiety, laziness, a poor self-image or maybe past experiences of losing at love? St. Francis de Sales writes that the measure of our love is to love without measure. I think many of us can battle being a measured lover, protecting ourselves from not getting hurt. But measured love is its own reward. I leave you with an image I return to frequently. Measured lovers live with arms crossed, protecting themselves, lest they be hurt. We are called to live with arms outstretched, open to the love that comes our way and as generous lovers in imitation of our loving Savior who taught and showed us that God is love and that love is our call. Love is our origin; it is our destiny, and it is our daily calling. Live in love!

Live Jesus!

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