



Fr. Matt's Musings

January 27, 2017

God: Beginning and End

Among the Hispanic members of our community, I have learned that a conversation neither begins nor ends without invoking God. Each greeting includes the polite hellos: "Buenos dias! Como estas?" (Good morning! How are you?) The response, "Estoy bien, Gracias a Dios." (I am fine, thanks to God.) In saying goodbye, God once again is included: "Nos vemos (See you later), Nos vemos, si Dios lo quiere." (See you later, God willing.) "Lord, may everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your saving help. Let our work always find its origin in you and through you reach completion." (Week 1, Morning Prayer, Closing Prayer.)

In a similar manner, Salesian humility begins with gratitude and ends in trust. Whether it is grace before meals or prayers before bed, many of us remember to begin and end our days or big actions with God. I believe that it is the "continue with your saving help" in our actions and days that is the challenge. Francis tells us that the present moment is where we find God. "Do not think of tomorrow for when it arrives it too will be called today. Think only of living today well." But how many of us have lost a good night's sleep because of our anxiety over what may happen tomorrow? Mark Twain once wrote, "I have been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened." Or some of us live in the past with our memories because of the loneliness or pain of the present. This moment, this action, these people are God's gift to us. Francis gives us a simple prayer to remember throughout the day that every day can only continue with God's saving help:

My God, I give you this day (meeting, traffic jam, difficult person).
Please give me the grace to conduct myself during it in a manner
most pleasing to you. Amen.

Next week, I will continue with the second part of my three part series on divine love.

Open House and Catholic Schools Week

This Sunday is Open House for our OLGC parish school. Please spread the word and come out to visit the school between 10:30 and 1:00 this Sunday.

Catholic Schools Week begins with Mass in church at 8:30 am on Monday.

Have a good week!

Live Jesus!

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