



**Fr. Matt's Musings**  
**January 6, 2017**

**Life in the Years**

This week, I prayed with a family I know immediately after the death of their father, husband and brother. He was only sixty-five and had suffered from cancer for sixteen years. His vocation in life was to walk with families during just these moments and help them to mourn and celebrate and bury their loved ones. He continued that mission during many of those years of his own suffering. He was caring, funny, devoted and committed to helping others. His daughter, who graduated from OLGC, told the story of her OLGC days when she asked her dad why he was not a lawyer or doctor like the parents of her friends. His response was to use a childhood image. He said that he was like Humpty Dumpty, helping to put people back together after the death of a loved one. I love that image. At only sixty-five, he brought much comfort and healing into the lives of others.

St. Francis de Sales wrote that it is not the number of years in a life that counts, but the life in those years. There are no guarantees about the number of days or years for any of us. There is only the decision for each of us to live fully, with care, compassion and conviction, and like a sixty-five year old husband, father, brother, grandfather and funeral home director, to leave the world a better place by the way he chose to spend his life walking with others at some of the most vulnerable moments of life. Let us continue that mission of making the world a better place with the years we are given.

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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