



## Fr. Matt's Musings

July 14, 2017

I write this musing from Portland, Oregon. I arrived late last night and am looking forward to seeing some of the beauty and the sites of the Pacific Northwest. Travel is always good for me to challenge my perspective. It is a small thing but to see signs on "The" 5 (as opposed to Interstate 95) that say "Beaches, west" shows an immediate change of location. Many Americans become confused on the streets of London because they drive on the "wrong" side of the road. Travel can open our eyes to the ways in which we as Americans look at the world and the ways others look at us. Many English find it curious that what we call football is a game played much more with the hands than the feet. Our worldview and perspective serve us well, but hopefully we are also open to the ways in which others view and celebrate life. In the Scriptures, Jesus mourns that the religious leaders have closed their hearts to him. As followers of Christ, we are called to live with open and generous hearts as well as open minds to the many ways which others approach, live and celebrate life. Salesian gentleness begins with a deep and profound respect for the dignity of each person we meet as a beloved son or daughter of God. Even when we do not agree with another, we can affirm the core dignity of all.

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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