



Fr. Matt's Musings

June 16, 2017

Hope

Over the last week, I have had the privilege of being a part of several transitions. Last Friday, I attended the high school and eighth grade graduations of my two nephews. Last Saturday, we celebrated the graduation of the OLG eighth grade. Monday, we gathered to elevate the kindergarten class to the first grade. Then on Wednesday, we concluded the school year with our final school Mass and welcomed the students into their new grade and teachers for next fall. Finally, last evening, I participated in the James Madison Baccalaureate celebration. The theme of that ceremony centered on the virtue of hope. What an appropriate theme for the week as there is so much promise and talent for our future, evidenced by the lives of so many intelligent, creative and fine young people.

As I prepared my remarks for each of those celebrations, I was struck by another avenue to hope. In addition to hope springing from the confidence for a bright future, so many come to hope from the experience of suffering, adversity and challenges. I will offer three examples:

H(old) O(n) P(ain) E(nds)

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.

Desmond Tutu

We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our tradition places hope as one of the great theological virtues, along with faith and love. Hope permits us to choose to live in joy because in Jesus we have the joy of a promise kept. And hope allows us to live with confidence because we know the end of the story. Love and life win eternally. I conclude with one of my favorite messages of hope. Hope is also linked to mercy and forgiveness. Forgiveness does not erase or change the past, but it can enlarge the future. Have a hope filled, enlarged week!

Live Jesus!

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