



Fr. Matt's Musings

June 23, 2017

May you love and be loved
embracing its many forms.
May you know boundless, roomy love,
layered in moments both tiny and grand,
leaving your capacious heart
all the bigger
to love and love more.
(*May It Be: Growing a Genuine Life*, p. 15)

The measure of our love is to love without measure. (SFS)

These two quotes challenge us to make sure that our hearts are tender and growing. In the past, I have translated the quote from St. Francis de Sales to mean that measured love is its own reward. Measured love is a safe love: one that does not want to be rejected, to play it safe, not to get burnt or hurt again. However, the first quote from *May It Be* leads to a second interpretation of the Salesian quote. In measuring the human heart, just how much love can the human heart show or accept?

This interpretation came from my experience with couples and their children. Several couples have shared that after the birth of a child, especially the first, they were not sure that they had enough love or the same love they showed the earlier child(ren). This seems to be a fair enough question. However, the Christian call is always to love and to love more and more deeply.

My mom and dad had five children. On our birthdays, Mom called each of us to tell us that this is one of the five happiest days of her life. When she met people who said that she must be proud of one of us, she would respond that she was proud, and that she was proud of all five of us. She repeatedly said that she did not have a favorite, but that she loved each of us equally but differently. (I always interpreted that as a code that she loved me the most.) The human heart has great capacity for love, and I think that is why it is mentioned most often in our Scriptures as the organ or body part most associated with what is most human, especially love and our relationship with God and one another.

We do not love any two people the same but that does not mean that it is more or less, better or worse. It simply means that we make more room in our heart and love that person in a unique and personal way. "May you love and be loved... leaving your capacious heart all the bigger to love and love more."

Live Jesus!

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