



## Fr. Matt's Musings

June 2, 2017

### Blessings

During the celebration of the 11:30 am Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden, NJ, the Sign of Peace can last several minutes. Children move about the church in a sea of bodies that can seem at first glance to be chaotic or even irreverent. However it is neither. The children are looking for their godparents (padrinos), grandparents and other family elders to receive their blessing (bendición).

Each day during my eight years there, it seemed that I said "Amen" more than any other word. Each parishioner whom I would encounter throughout the day would greet me with, "Padrecito, Dios lo bendiga" (Father, God bless you!). At first, I answered "thank you" but was corrected that the proper response to God bless you is, of course, Amen.

I think of that often. If the people of one of the poorest and most challenged cities in our nation can see blessings all around them, what an example and challenge to me. Each day, each encounter, each breath is a blessing from God. If we begin our day thanking God for the blessing of a new day and each moment, each person as part of that blessing, the only true response to that blessed day is, Amen.

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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