



## **Fr. Matt's Musings**

October 20, 2017

***Our ideologies separate us. It is our dreams and anguish  
that bring us together.***  
***- Eugene Ionesco***

In Spanish, there are different words to express "a mess." In Puerto Rico, one says, rebolu, but in Cuba, the same sentiment is expressed more poetically, arroz con mangoes, which translates as rice and mangoes. That does sound messy. At any given parish event, finding volunteers for cleaning up can be a challenge. By its very nature, cleaning up is messy.

In our spiritual journeys, messiness is inevitable. All of us experience sadness, worry, anguish and distress. Jesus asked that this cup bypass him in his anguish on Holy Thursday. On the cross, we read that he felt forsaken. However, he did not carry his cross alone. Although he was forced to do so, Simon of Cyrene accompanied Jesus on his way to Golgotha.

Many of us are hesitant to enter into that sacred, messy ground with someone else. We may fear that we do not have the right words, or worse, we may say something that makes the moment more painful. There is nothing we can say to make the pain go away. The gift of our presence is what we can do to make a difference. Holding someone's hand, a hug and being there are almost always met with words of thanks, "Thank you for being here." Let us enter into, insert ourselves into messy moments but not with clever words or the thought that we can take away someone else's pain. What we can do is let someone know that they are not alone and that our presence is our willingness to enter into that messy, uncomfortable and very real moment of life.

The greatest gift we always have to offer is the simple but powerful gift

of ourselves, our presence. Show up, make a call, send a card or note so that no one goes through the messiness of life alone.

## **Live Jesus!**

*Fr. Matt*

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