



## **Fr. Matt's Musings** **September 1, 2017**

### **Beginnings**

September is a month of new beginnings. The school year opens; the football season starts, and the parish begins a new year of religious education, sacramental preparation, and parish programs and meetings. It is a month of promise, hope and possibilities. Students meet new teachers, and everyone has the opportunity for a fresh start.

It seems to be a good image for the Christian life. The Scriptures show us examples of those who begin anew: Paul, Mary Magdalene and Peter to name just a few. Frequently this redefining is marked by a name change: Saul to Paul and Simon to Peter. It is a reminder that God honors growth and change in each one of us.

At times, there can be a temptation not to see or honor the changes that take place in one another. Some can live forever in the eyes and minds of others based on a weak action, or failure from the past. In the Salesian tradition, gentleness is the virtue that invites us to accept our own limitations and failings and those of others as part of the human condition. Gentleness also encourages us to recognize and support the efforts of one another to change whatever failings we can. Remember, St. Francis de Sales writes, "Our perfection lies not in being perfect, but in the attempt." Let us live in gentleness with one another and with ourselves. Happy September!

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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