



Fr. Matt's Musings **September 22, 2017**

September 21

Although this email is sent on Friday, September 22nd, I write the musing on Thursday, September 21st, the feast of Saint Matthew. It is obviously a special day of the year for me, since I share the same name as the apostle and evangelist Matthew. In the listing of the twelve apostles, Peter and Andrew are mentioned to be brothers, as are James and John. Judas receives the designation, the one who betrayed Jesus. Two other apostles receive mention after their names: Matthew, the tax collector, and Simon, the zealot. It is worth noting because in any other circumstance, a tax collector and a zealot would not be in one another's company. The tax collector was seen to be a traitor to Israel, working for the Roman Empire. A zealot wanted independence from Roman rule and tyranny.

It shows the power of Jesus' appeal that the two can set aside differences and prejudices and focus on Jesus and his mission. Likewise, in every healthy and true Christian community, differences, biases and prejudices must be overcome to remain centered on Christ and his kingdom. Our community is blessed with a rich diversity: race, language and culture. We recognize that diversity as a gift from God, and it is only when we remain centered on Christ that the blessing of that diversity may be celebrated because of our oneness and union with the Lord and with one another. As the Catholic community of OLGC, we must celebrate and proclaim that diversity to all, especially those who seek to separate and denigrate others based uniquely on differences of color, religion, country of origin or sexual orientation. We can do so much better. Let us live our motto well this year:

Transform the ordinary with great love.

Show great love to all. Live Jesus!

Live and love the day well!

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