

Fr. Matt's Musings

Salesian Reflection

St. Francis de Sales loved the little virtues: humility, gentleness, simplicity and hospitality. Too often, hospitality is underrated or overlooked. It is a tremendously important virtue. Each of us has an area or areas where we struggle: patience, anger, anxiety, etc. As much as we try, we never seem to gain control in this area. It is one of the thorns in our flesh that St. Paul mentions.

Hospitality, on the other hand, is a virtue where we always have a choice. We can either offer someone a warm welcome or we can be cold or dismissive. St. Peter writes that hospitality and love cover a multitude of sins. Hospitality is found in warm words, generous actions and also in our thoughts. Hospitality occurs when we think the best of a situation which might be looked at in several different ways, when we avoid gossip and when we give someone a second or third or hundredth chance.

This week, when we feel discouraged about our lack of patience, our angry words, or anxious spirit, let us redirect our thoughts and our energy to the practice of hospitality, and offer a warm welcome and our generous spirit to the next person who comes into our day. Live Jesus!

October

Tomorrow is October 1st. This month, there are many activities at OLGC, and I would like to draw your attention to a couple of them.

On Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, and again on Monday, October 24th from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm we will have an information session about the options available in Liturgical Ministry. If you are not currently serving, please consider coming to one of the workshops to learn more about becoming a lector, usher, Eucharistic minister, choir member or a minister of hospitality. We need the support and the generosity of the community to serve in these very important ministries. I have heard some say that they do not feel worthy. I understand that sentiment, but no one is worthy. Remember the maxim: God does not call the able; God makes able those whom He calls. Please, answer the call.

On Wednesday, October 19th, at 9:00 am and then again at 7:30 pm, there will be the second in our monthly Salesian presentations. Please choose either time and come to the chapel for an hour of prayer and reflection. I will lead the presentation, "Mercy with two Francis', the Pope and our Patron, de Sales: Living through Loss". I will keep the presentation to one hour and try to make it informative, engaging, interesting and

entertaining. Schedule I will be away this weekend. I am officiating at the wedding of the son of two very good friends of mine. I wish you all a restful and good weekend. Live Jesus! Fr. Matt frhillyard@olgcva.org www.olgcva.org Our Lady of Good Counsel 8601 Wolftrap Road Vienna, VA 22182

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