



Fr. Matt's Musings **September 8, 2017**

Time

Last November, I wrote a musing about the importance of time. This September, I am returning to that theme. I think it is the shorter days, the changing of the seasons and the beginning of fall colors that remind me of the rhythm and importance of our years, months, days and hours. From September until December, we witness shorter and colder days and the growing darkness that moves many of us into the comfort and security of spending more time inside where we can control both the level of light and temperature. I find that it is a time for me to reflect on the importance of time and how we spend it.

September, October, November and December are the four months that show us the most significant loss of light and increase of darkness. However, these four months begin with a misnomer. Sept(7)ember, Oct(8)ober, Nov(9)ember and Dec(10)ember misdirect us from a language perspective. As the preceding sentence indicates, our ninth month (September) begins with the root of seven and the others follow suit. Time does that to us. It calls us by its rhythm to realize that it is a special gift. There are always twenty-four hours in a day. Yet, some days, it seems that there are not enough hours in the day, while others seem to drag on. One day, our schedule takes over and we cannot finish everything on our list. But another day drags on as we wait for the arrival of a delayed loved one, the results of a medical test or a delivery pizza for a famished stomach or family.

Our tradition consistently calls us to the importance of living this moment and day well. The present moment is the one guarantee we have from our loving God. How well do we spend the moments the Lord gives us? St. Francis de Sales reminds us to live today well because when tomorrow arrives, it will be called today. Celebrate the light, even as it shortens. Embrace the darkness, especially as it expands. Remember that the ninth month in which we find ourselves has seven as its root. Time is precious. It is a gift. It cannot be controlled but simply lived and celebrated. God lives in the eternal now, but we always meet God in this moment because that is always where we can be found and direct our energy and attention. Live this moment well. Happy September, the ninth month that we name by calling it seven!

Live Jesus!

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