

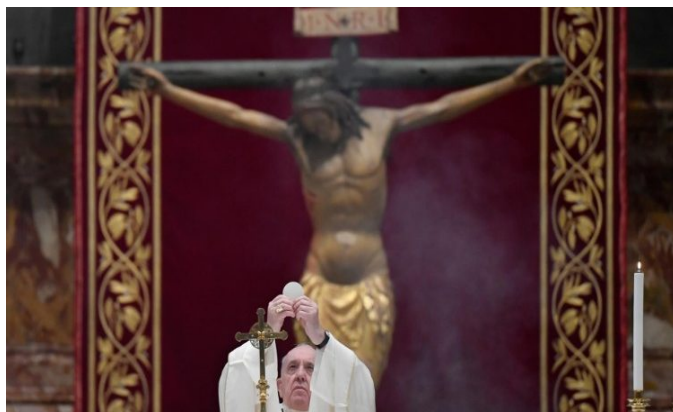
## April 16, 2020-Reflections for the Easter Season-Ms. Albano

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Dear God, I acknowledge the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation for being the ongoing stewards of this traditional territory.

### *A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

*Then Jesus said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'*



Five years ago, I was home to celebrate Holy Thursday mass with my dad. I was in charge of taking care of him after his first day of chemo treatment while my sister and mom served at the church. I never thought I would ever do that again. But, last week, I was home again to celebrate Holy Thursday mass. It was a moment to reflect and accept that my usual busyness with my parish and immediate family would not happen this year. As per usual, it was a different way to pray and celebrate our faith. Yet, the beauty of our faith shined through. A reminder that the reason I took care of my dad on Holy Thursday and continue to stay isolated today is the same.

Even though the churches were empty the heart of the faith beat through. Without the shuttering of cameras during the procession at the Vatican or revelling in over packed churches, we embraced the silence and focused on the words and movement of the liturgy. Nourishing our spirit with the Word of God, but left yearning to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

On Holy Thursday, the faithful celebrated the gift of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Cardinal Thomas Collins explained, the heart of our faith is the Eucharist. At the altar of the Lord, we stand before the presence of God. In this Sacrament, at every mass, we celebrate God's love for humanity in bread and wine. The sacrament where we don't remember, but take part in as disciples in the present time.

Yet in our separation, because of the social distancing restrictions, God invites us into the deeper mystery of His love for us. On Holy Thursday, God shows us how to share His love and sacrifice to the world. In the same way Christ washed His disciples' feet, Christ shows us how to serve our neighbour. Our charity is more than from the goodness of our heart; it stems from the love God has for humanity on the cross. What I did for my dad and what we do for our neighbour today is what Cardinal Collins the paradox. We are being asked to sacrifice celebrating the heart of our faith in Holy Communion to show our love of neighbour. Thus, every choice we have made in Canada and individually to combat COVID-19 can only be explained in God's language of love.

As we remain isolated from each other, may we remember that we do it for love of neighbour. Though we cannot receive Christ in Holy Communion, we can still be visible signs of His love in being nourished by His word and helping others in our special ways. May these days bring you back to the beauty of the Church so you may immerse yourself in the truth-we are called to gather at our Lord's table to celebrate God's love for us and to be a visible sign of it in how we love our neighbour. May you always remember the words of Jesus at the Ascension, "remember I am with you always till the end of days. Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.