

April 17, 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 Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,

'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus* is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."* There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'*

As we settle into the new norm, I hope we never forget the life lessons we are learning. One, to remember the most vulnerable and isolated group are those in our long term care homes and those living on the street. A very silent group that without the pandemic, we as a nation, would have never valued their life nor for the personal support workers and volunteers who help care for them daily. Two, the value of having real leaders who choose life over profit in a crisis. Third, to accept and acknowledge our human limitations.

Fr. Cantalamessa's, the homilist on Good Friday said it best, "the pandemic of Coronavirus has abruptly roused us from the greatest danger individuals and humanity have always been susceptible to: the delusion of omnipotence... It took merely the smallest and most formless element of nature, a virus, to remind us that we are mortal, that military power and technology are not sufficient to save us." In other words, we are not gods. As much as we try to fill our lives with things and projects to make us believe we are powerful and have a right to live as I choose, this virus shows we cannot live our lives thinking we are god.

I hope all of us might take this time for reflection. To think of what we valued before COVID-19. To see how we reacted to the pandemic. Have we fallen back into old habits of self reliance and selfishness? Have we taken the time to reconnect with family and God? Have we only thought about the economic fall out when in other parts of the world their stimulus package is literally a sack of rice and beans to feed a family for a week? Again, as Fr. Cantalamessa's reminds us in the words of Pope Francis, "we should not waste this opportunity. Let us not allow so much pain, so many deaths, and so much heroic engagement on the part of health workers to have been in vain. Returning to the way things were is the "recession" of which we should have the most fear."

Let us pray using the words of Fr. Cantalamessa that when we stop fighting COVID-19 we may devote the unlimited resources committed to weapons to the goals that we now realize are most necessary and urgent: health, hygiene, food, the poverty fight, stewardship of creation. Let us leave to the next generation a world poorer in goods and money, if need be, but richer in its humanity." 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.

For those wishing to see a full text of Fr. Cantalamessa's homily for Good Friday 2020 click the link below.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/full-text-fr-cantalamessas-homily-for-good-friday-97954>

For those who want to listen to it

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srifm48DKsE> (english translation)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXzB84dFZbl> (original Italian)