

April 23, 2020-Reflections for the Easter Season Ms. Albano

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

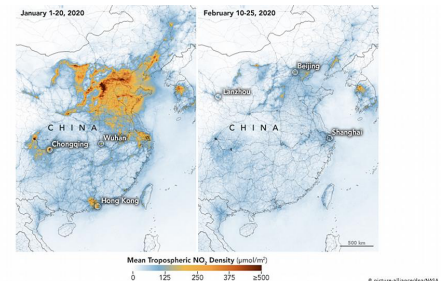
Dear God, I acknowledge the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation for being the ongoing stewards of this traditional territory.



A reading from the Gospel of John

“When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.”

Yesterday, a friend reminded me that it was the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*. A reminder that the earth is our common home. I think in these days, as we see nations face the pandemic, we realize how connected we are to each other. Consider, if there is a positive in our limited movement, as some have posted online, is the decrease of emissions in the air. When you see air quality images today compared to last year, you see what happens when we collectively cut down our emissions. The air is cleaner. Areas once polluted, like Venice, have dolphins swimming through the city. Yet, we also see the amount of waste we create when we use disposable medical supplies and switch to having our items delivered in overpackaged cardboard boxes.



When we think of the grand things that we need to do for the environment, we realize how complicated the solutions are to solve them. However, as we see in the Gospel, Jesus shows the solutions are not grand. He shows how we have the gifts and talents needed to accomplish anything in partnership with Him. When we pool our resources and work together, and bring our gifts and time to God, great things happen. As Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si*, *“Concern for others and the natural environment attunes us to] the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. An awareness of the gravity of today’s cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits.”* (#208-209).

Let us pray that we will never lose sight of how we share a common home. May the current mantra, we are all in this together, continue to resonate when we tackle environmental issues. Let us keep close to our heart this lesson, which we have learned before, we have the power to impact each other in positive and negative ways. As we see the results of working together, may we also find solutions to creating better ones that protect the earth. May we 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.