



April 29, 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

“Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

After St. Stephen died, the Roman authorities thought the horrific scene would scare the others into submission. Yet, as scripture shows us, his death either spurred others on to continue to proclaim the Good News or urged them to persecute the disciples. A passage which reminds us that St. Stephen never acted on his own, but was part of a group who had one common goal: proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ and building communities rooted in the Gospel message.

Recently, Canadian artists, athletes, and celebrities collaborated on a televised fundraiser for Food Banks in Canada. They used their collective talents and popularity to thank the medical professionals, first responders, and essential workers. They communicated the importance of staying in so others may continue to provide our necessities. However, during the broadcast, each person always said, we are stronger together.

It is a refrain that also highlights those who rather cause division. They rather criticize the work of others, increase their political profile, or protecting their investments, then consider our work is about protecting our human dignity and lives. Human beings who still need help in necessities like food and shelter or medical assistance in dealing with mental health or other diseases. Forgetting that when we work together for one common goal, we are stronger.

Let us pray that we acknowledge and see that COVID-19 reminds us how we are stronger together. When we look at issues through the eyes of human dignity, we will see how we are the same in life and death matters. In this time of isolation, let us see how a virus doesn't consider borders or ideologies, but attacks any human being, regardless. May we see that when we work together, we can have a better outcome than a virus. Let us remember that we are stronger together, but in God we are unstoppable. May we profess and bear witness to 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.