

## April 30, 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*

*“Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.*



*Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard the official reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The official replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.”*

If you ever tried to put a 3000 piece puzzle together, you know it is a daunting task. All you have is a picture and pieces. You don't know how anything fits so you think of strategies to put it together such as finding all the edge pieces or like colours. Strategies that don't lead anywhere, but to confusion and frustration. However, as you find pieces that fit together, pieces are completing sections you didn't think would belong in that area. In short, when you start a puzzle you're not sure how it will work out, but over time and with some patience you see the complete picture.

This is an excellent way to think of the interaction between Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. Most people forget that Ethiopians were one of the first Christians. A detail documented in the Acts of the Apostles. As we find out at the end, Philip baptizes the Ethiopian Eunuch.

See, the Ethiopian Eunuch had scripture and faith, but what he lacked was understanding. He meets Philip, as urged on by the Holy Spirit, and he invites Philip to teach him. Without knowing it, Philip's experience and understanding informs the Eunuch. Both men learn that they had their own piece of the puzzle and needed each other to understand what God was calling them to do.

So it is in life. We never know exactly how everything will fit. We don't know how the skills you learned in your first job will help you in your future career. You don't understand that the difficulty you experience in learning something new, such as a new computer program or subject, may become the essential tool or knowledge you need to teach others.

I pray that we all may experience what St. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch did on that day. May the Holy Spirit make us better teachers and students of the faith. May we seek to understand scripture and our practices to communicate with God and others. If you are the type who like to make your faith visible in action, may you take the time to contemplate why you act. May you see that during this time, the Holy Spirit is calling you to reflect and enrich those practices with the love of God. If you are contemplative, may you bring your prayer to life in what you teach and react to those in need, In this

way, we can 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.