

April 7, 2020-Prayer and Reflection -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 13: 36-38

“Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus answered, ‘Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterwards.’³⁷ Peter said to him, ‘Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.’³⁸ Jesus answered, ‘Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.’”

Making masks for the homeless, picking up food for the elderly, and leaders choosing lives over profit are some examples of how we are reacting to COVID-19. We have also witnessed panic buying, civil disobedience, and leaders floundering under the weight of dealing with COVID 19. Constant reminders that as human beings, we have the potential to do extraordinary and selfish things.



Peter is a great example of doing something extraordinary and selfish. Peter is the disciple who proclaims that Christ is the Son of God and pledges His life to Him. He tells Jesus that he will die for him. But when the authorities arrest Jesus, he denies knowing him. Out of fear, he forgets his promises and abandons his friend. However, as we heard in the Gospel today, Jesus knows Peter will do it.



Jesus knows because he understands our human weaknesses. He understands how fear fuels our worst decisions. Fear of admitting we are wrong. Fear of losing power. Fear of death. However, fear and those decisions should never imprison us from seeking to reconcile from God and others. Our choices should never consume us nor isolate our heart from God because His love and mercy is stronger.

As we know, Peter will acknowledge his sin and seek forgiveness from Christ. In Peter's humility, we see God's mercy revealed. Jesus does not punish Peter for disobedience and betrayal but forgives, teaches and gives him what he needs to lead God's people. See, when Peter acknowledges his human limitations and sin, Peter learns to entrust himself fully to God and never let his fear guide his decisions.

I pray that we acknowledge our human weaknesses, especially when we permit fear to influence our decisions. May we continue to trust in God and pray for those who refuse to acknowledge their selfish behaviour, which causes more harm than good. Let us always remember those words of Jesus at the Ascension, “remember I am with you always till the end of days.”
Amen.