

## June 11, 2020-Reflections for Ordinary Time

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

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*

*“The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they associated with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called ‘Christians’.”(Acts 11:21-26)*

On this day, the Church marks the Feast of St. Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement. Again, St. Barnabas was a faithful disciple in the early days of the Church, but he was not part of the original twelve. Not really known for sharing any great wisdom or writing for generations to read. His story is simple for all of us to follow. A person who dedicated his life to the Lord as guided by the Holy Spirit in the faith. Where did that lead? It led him to serve as a mediator between Paul and the suspicious Jewish Christians. In him, St. Barnabas reminds the faithful how God calls us to serve the Lord in unique ways and capacities. Some will get the fame and glory while others will serve as the cheerleader for others to shine.

Sometimes, we think we are not doing enough for those around us. Sometimes we think not enough is being done by others when we are working hard. I am guilty of both statements as some have been victim to my overzealous nature. Therefore, having a saint like St. Barnabas reminds me that everyone has a role to play in the Church. Everyone, according to the Holy Spirit, will contribute in their way and if it recognition comes or if it changes someone, will depend on God. All I'm called to do is lay it out for others to see wait to see how it blooms while moving on. According to the Acts of Apostle's, this is what he did. Some of his ideas we appreciated at the moment while others need more time to grow and effects others. But as it was or St. Barnabas and as it is for us today, being faithful is key and how others will see our patience to see how God will take our action and faith can in God's time.

I pray for those who feel ignored, keep the faith and continue on. Know that others will not acknowledge your work and efforts immediately. Keep in mind that excellent wine takes time to ferment and is not drunk fresh from the vine. Therefore, remember your efforts and words may need to mature in those you serve. Keep working according to your ability and talent and offer it to the Lord, for he always sees you as he created. May the Holy Spirit help you find that your words have a far greater reach than in the present moment. Keep close to your heart the words of Jesus who said, “Remember I am with you always till the end of days.” Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

