

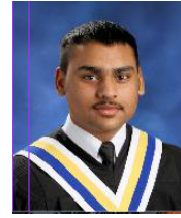
June 17, 2020-Reflections for Ordinary Time

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 Gospel of Matthew

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Be careful not to parade your good deeds before others to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven.’”(Matthew 6:1-2)



It is easy to define a hero or heroine as one who has unique powers. In the Marvel and DC universe, it is easy to recognize them as being stronger than others or having a lot of gadgets to save the world. In our reality, we also see our heroes as ones who do extraordinary things. They save a life from a burning house or maybe an unlikely person who donates a huge amount of money for a cause. During this time, we also acknowledge those who have been covered in the news lately. Maybe, the kid who started making face masks for front line workers with their three-d printer or thousands who deliver food to their neighbours. Our heroes are the doctors, nurses, and therapists who are still in our hospitals and long care facilities trying to save as many lives from the virus.

Although good, Jesus challenges all us to do our good deeds without seeking praise or glory. To do them because it is in our DNA to help others. For example, this year we will have four students who will be the Valedictorian for the graduating class of 2020. To not have our students compete for the honour, the committee have voted for the four self nominated students the opportunity to speak on behalf of their class. What surprised me about the four was how much they have done without seeking the praise their voluntarism around the school and in their community would warrant. After speaking to each, with their enthusiasm clear in their voices, we have a diverse group of four who will speak from varying perspectives of what it means to graduate now, from what they have achieved and struggled through this year. I hope that you will hear from them what makes a hero is not in the physical strength or intelligence nor in what gadgets they use, but in the acts of kindness that always go unnoticed in this world. If I could list all the things these students have done just from the sheerness of their heart, we could not ask more from our students.

I pray for all the exemplary work you do for our students and know that your Lord sees it and will make it multiply ten folds. Keep reminding yourself that your goal is never for self praise but to honour your Father in Heaven who has blessed you with everything. May those asked to speak on behalf of their graduating class approach it as they have their life with humility and enthusiasm. With Christ's words in our hearts, “Remember I am with you always till the end of days.” Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.