

June 3, 2020-Reflections for the Easter Season Ms. Albano

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 Second Letter of Peter

“Beloved: Wait for and hasten the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace. And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation. Therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, be on your guard not to be led into the error of the unprincipled and to fall from your own stability. But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:12-15A, 17-18)



A week ago the Ontario Provincial government released a report about Long Care Facilities. After spending close to a month in these Ontario homes, the Canadian army reported what they experienced and witnessed in these facilities. According to the report the residents were not receiving basic quality care from their providers. For some, they were living in uncleaned rooms, were malnourished, or neglected. For others, there was a lack of staff and resources to provide these residents with care which respected their human dignity.

I wish I could say the findings surprised me. Unfortunately, I was not. This is an issue that is largely ignored in our society. We don't see it on our social feeds nor hear about it in the news. For me, my experience in the hospital, heightened my awareness and showed me that the care for patients, especially the elderly and special needs, had not kept pace with the times. Anyone who has worked or volunteered in either a hospital or long care facility know that patients and residents are always waiting for someone to assist them. As I have said before, if there is a lesson we learn during our isolation, we remember the elderly and those with special needs are our brothers and sisters whose lives and dignity matter. They have stories to teach us and hearts to soften our cynicism and selfishness in the world today.

In today scriptures, knowing and experiencing the truth of Christ, we need to always be on guard. We need to protect those who are silent in our world. We are to safeguard every life and not take for granted the preciousness of it. During our COVID-19 isolation, we have experienced and witnessed the difference between life and death is a breath. We cannot forget that we must take care of the most vulnerable in our society who are the elderly and those who need special care. A silent voice which we are hearing now. Let us not forget that what matters is how we take care of each other daily, not in where I can go and what I can buy. May we learn that in our sacrifice to protect the most vulnerable, we may come before the Lord unblemished because we serve the Lord in how we protect and nurture every life from conception to natural death.



I pray that during this time of COVID-19 you will reflect and honestly admit what you miss during this time of isolation. Is it seeing family and friends? Is it the freedom of movement? Is it work? Or that you missed hearing those who are suffering, especially the elderly and the shut in who are ignored or have been provided policies that are quick fixes to save money? Have you missed being present and attentive to the needs of those who need care where their dignity in being the beloved child of God is protected and nurtured? May the Blessed Mother guide us to ponder and trust in 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.