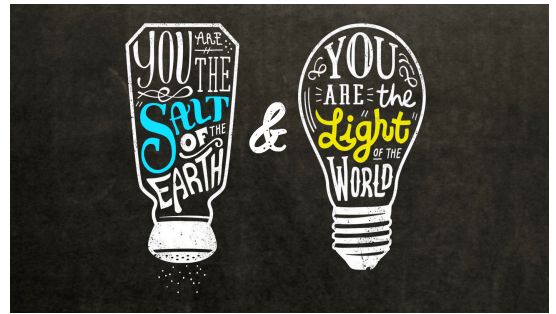


June 9, 2020-Daily Reflection in Ordinary Time

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, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven'" (Matthew 5:13-16)

For two weeks, we see people take to the streets in protest, especially in the United States of America. They have witnessed again the injustices which African Americans face in their nation and, despite the danger that lurks in their breath because of COVID-19, they march. They march as if they were fighting the end of segregation in the United States. They march for that elusive right for everyone to see and respect them as a human being. They march so they can hold those in power accountable for when they misuse their power.

As we hear in today scriptures, those who have and are fighting for a change are living examples of what it means to be salt and light for the world. For the baptized, Christ calls us to ignite the world with the truth and protect all human dignity. God calls us to be the light for those living in darkness. But, Christ warns us, that being salt and light for the world is not a one-day event, but is a way of life. For in our daily good works, others do what is right and just.

Perhaps, as we see the cries of injustice, we need to remember that eventually these protests will end, but it doesn't mean the message or outrage ceases to exist. If you have seen or read anything from civil right movement activists, or other prominent African American professors and experts, they know shouting on the streets is not enough. They know that within each community people must start doing the real work for any genuine change to occur. They know laws need to change and at the local level government must offer equal educational opportunities to all children. One thing we can do during our COVID-19 isolation is to take a step back and reflect on our lives. Acknowledge your blessings and privileges and share it with others. One speech I heard was for those with the means and time to get involved with organizations that are already doing the work to empower the improvised with necessities, access to an education, and the supports needed for success. I have always advocated for investing in people through scholarship, resources, or time because the dividends are worth more than property or investments. Consider it a way to invest in a variety of opportunities so all may shine.

I pray that in our daily life; we look deep into our hearts and realize that God has given us so much that we can compassionately share and care for others. Let us take to heart what it means to be salt and light, for this scripture passage is more than a phrase, but a call to help others build a life. May we not leave this it to our politicians and lawmakers to fix but strive to help change our neighbourhoods and communities in listening and creating opportunities for thinking about the cost. 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.