

May 14, 2020-Reflections for the Easter Season 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 Acts of the Apostles

“The Apostle’s proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.” (Acts of the Apostles 1:24-26)

If you are graduating this year, you may be eager for tomorrow. Do I know everything I need to know to be ready for my post-secondary studies or the work world ahead? Am I prepared with the skills needed to learn and succeed in this new uncharted pandemic future? Or maybe you've reached a point in your life where something inside of you is urging you to change something. You ask yourself, am I talented enough to lead people? Do I have the skills and the giftedness I need to pursue something else? Am I ready to take a leap of faith and try something new without a safety net underneath me?

I'm sure these are the doubts and feelings the original eleven felt as they embarked on their mission. Yes, they had known Christ. He taught and showed them the way. Now, they were being called to proclaim the Gospel in a hostile and dangerous world. One of their first tasks was to find someone to replace Judas Iscariot. They had no textbook or formula of how to do this. All they had was the Holy Spirit within them and prayer to act on God's will. As simple as it sounds, they relied on that gift. They prayed and trusted in God. They followed and watched to see if the same fruit would be born from those they had appointed.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they chose Matthias to be one of the twelve. In faith and trust in God, he prayed, he trusted, and followed God. From there, he worked with the eleven and waited to see where God would lead him and see the fruit of his labours.

Today, as many have time to think about the past, present, and future, may you do so with an open heart to the will of God. May the Holy Spirit guide you down the path which God is showing is the way to your true self and nature. From there, have the courage of the Holy Spirit to follow where God leads and wait to see how hard work and preservation leads to bearing something good and honest.

Acknowledge the fear and doubt, but do as the Apostle's did, prayed and waited for God to show the way. Then get ready to accept the challenges ahead with a heart full of God's grace, the love of Christ, and the fortitude of the Holy Spirit. May you always carry in your heart the words of Jesus at the Ascension, "Remember I am with you always till the end of days." Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

