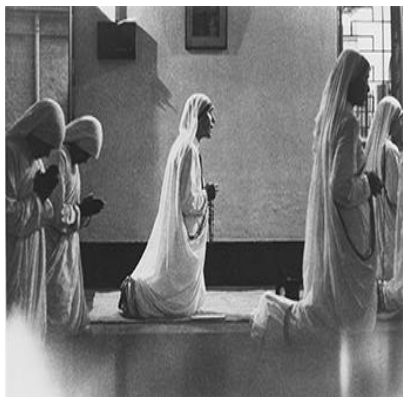


May 19, 2020-Reflections for the Easter Season Ms. Albano

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 First Letter of Peter

Beloved, always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit..” (1 Peter 3 15-18)



Mother Teresa stated, “that without the intense, burning presence of God in our hearts, without lives of profound, intense intimacy with Jesus, we are too poor to take care of the poor, Jesus present in us is the one who presses us toward the poor. Without him we can do nothing.” Or in a more direct manner, “Without Christ, charity is a masquerade.”

No doubt many do exemplary work in this world. They serve those in need. They help others. But we also know the saying, “no good intention goes unpunished.” A reminder that in our zeal to help others, we may cause more damage, such as forgetting whom you serve with and whom you serve. Letting the fame and attention that sometimes comes with the good deed becomes more important than the service.



There are two things I do to keep my emotions in check or don't allow them to cloud my judgement. The choice to help and serve others is not for my glory nor for recognition, but to bring others to Christ. Second, when others ignore or ridicule my efforts, I remember again that I do not do this for my glory, but as my prayer to God. I offer both the success and suffering to the Lord. What fruit it bears I leave to the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray that when we feel others ignore or show a lack of respect for our efforts, remember to offer that to the Lord. Remember, God sees your work and when you work from the place of faith, the Holy Spirit will make it flourish in ways that you cannot even imagine. Keep the faith and remember God is with you. May everyone you meet and serve always see and believe in 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.