

May 20, 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

"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.' When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them." (Acts 17:18-33)

A lot of our understanding of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit is within the words and actions of St. Paul. When you study theology, you start with reading the Acts of the Apostles. Why? Within those pages you hear what St. Paul preached, how he interacted with the Apostles, and what were the fruits of his labours. Consider the following, over simplified points which emerged in the Early church. Points which still frame what we proclaim and how we serve in the Catholic Church today.

1. St. Paul sought the advice and aid of the Apostles on the matter of bringing the Jewish Christians and the Gentiles together.
2. St. Paul illustrated how Christ fulfilled the scripture in what we refer to as the Old Testament today. He provided a framework to study scripture considering the Gospel.
3. St. Paul proclaimed Christ's resurrection from the dead.
4. St. Paul provided the context and purpose for the way Christian communities act in prayer and action.

We also see how people reacted to St. Paul's message. The people ignored it, would consider it later, or believed and followed. As you can see nothing has changed too much over two thousand years. Consider, if you heard this message today.

You are the beloved child of God. A God who is not a concept or a score keeper of your faults. Nor is God something you can define in your human terms and only trust in times of health and prosperity. God is merciful and kind. He is there in your despair and sickness. God is there when you are suffering and alone. Why? He shows us. He suffered and died on a cross for you and through his resurrection you have nothing to fear from this world. I will give you the Holy Spirit so you will never forget that you are part of my family. Come, believe, and live.

How have you reacted to that message? Do you seek clarity and understanding from those who are entrusted to study and proclaim the faith? Do you study scripture? Do you proclaim the message of the Gospel in both prayer and action?



I pray we see our role to take part in the ministry of Christ. May we have the courage of St. Paul and the words and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. When we fail, let us remember that even within the early church there were more false starts, but they did not give up. They learned to lean on each other, pray together, and trust that the Holy Spirit would help them proclaim Christ's life, death, and Resurrection. Let us keep in prayer the family and friends of Captain Jennifer Casey who died in the recent Snowbird Plane crash in BC, who was trying to bring hope to all of us in isolation. As we continue in isolation and amble back into a new norm, take courage and never forget the faith which St. Paul proclaimed is also our mission in life. May everyone you meet and serve always see and believe in the words of Jesus, "Remember I am with you always till the end of days." Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.