



## May 25, 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 Gospel of John*

*Jesus disciples said, "Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"*" (John 16:29-33)

Jesus is a magnificent teacher. He was always ready for his disciples to learn another lesson. Though he was proud when they made their bold statements and commitment to follow Him, he always knew that learning how to trust in God's providence came when one experienced life. As in a movie trailer I watched for the upcoming movie *Fatima*, St. Bernadette tells the reporter, faith begins when reason ends. In other words, you may know God, studied scripture, and made statements on belief, but until you live through the suffering and then the joys of life, you can't fully understand the greatness of God's mercy and love for humanity. A person experiences the mercy and love of God when you reach the point when you acknowledge that there are some things in life that you cannot control or prevent. It is when you realize your human ability has its limits, and God is limitless.

Today, Jesus warns them that as much as you have said you believed and loved me, you will abandon me. As much as I have given to you, you will reach a point where your fear will overcome you. A time when you will preserve your life, then trust in God's providence. But, it was the opportunity for Jesus to remind the disciples that with God on his side he is never alone. When the time comes, he knew that their faith in God would come when they witnessed his resurrection and the Holy Spirit descended upon them. But that is the story of genuine faith. A faith which stretches beyond platitudes, but one that faces our immortality with the assurance that God is on our side. Hoping if we nourish our relationship with God, everything else will fall into place even if I must face ridicule and judgement.

Let us pray for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to trust in the words of Jesus. For within our belief to claim Christ as our Lord and God, we may always have the courage to grow in our faith. Even if that means giving up things that distract us from getting to know God intimately. Let us take the time this week to go for a walk to reconnect to God. May you learn that faith in Him draws us to make the bolder sacrifice. And if we face ridicule and disbelief for our faith, may the Holy Spirit sustain us through it. With the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit may we remember 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.