



May 26, 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 Acts of the Apostles

Paul said to the elders, "as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace. "And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God." (Acts 20:20-27)

Two years ago the movie, St. Paul the Apostle was released. A movie which showed the last days of St. Paul on this earth as he recounted his journey to Luke. A journey which illustrated his zeal to persecute Christians, to his conversion, and his ministry throughout the Roman Empire while in the background a world where Christians were being crucified on the streets and communities being raided for believing in Christ. The director provided images which showed the brutality and cost of the early Christians to believe in Christ.

It makes you wonder where the strength and courage to remain faithful to Christ came from. In today's reading, we hear that St. Paul was aware of what was to come. Understandable! There was an empire which was trying to discredit and kill him and other Christians. The practice of the faith was still being discussed and debated amongst the different communities. A time when everyone seemed to dislike you for sharing your faith. Little has change for Christians today.

However, we see a man who knew these struggles and how his life would end. Guided by the Holy Spirit, he saw his future and it did not frighten him. In his life, he remained faithful to his mission and was not embarrassed nor apologetic for it. With great humility and discernment, he faced his mortality with the fortitude and understanding that can only come through the Holy Spirit. When I think of St. Paul towards the end of his life, I reflect on my relationship with the Holy Spirit. Is it as strong? Am I as faithful? When I come to the end of my days, will I say with great confidence that I professed and lived the faith in union with the Holy Spirit for others to know God through His Son Jesus Christ.

May you take the time to reflect on your life. What is your purpose in this life? Are you leading others to Christ and His Church? Have you become a buffet believer, picking parts of the faith that work for your life as opposed to hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit who says, we cannot live the faith unless we explore, protect, and celebrate all aspects of it? May this time be the opportunity to ask the bolder questions and to open your heart and mind to the Holy Spirit. 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.