

June 10, 2020-Reflections for Ordinary Time

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 Matthew

Jesus said to His disciples, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17-19)

For those who have been able to take a break from work and the demands of keeping a home with others and neighbours, this time of isolation has led to moments, I hope, for self-reflection. Our COVID-19 isolation has given us the time to think about things that otherwise we ignore or put off till you have "time". Perhaps some have realized their biases and prejudices. Others have realized the vices of our lives which have tainted how we see each other and made choices that dehumanize. Perhaps some met new neighbours and heard their stories. Others have realized that they have too many things that they forget how others don't have as much to adjust to the new reality. Maybe you have gone on more walks to realize that everyone owns a dog. Perhaps for those with younger families, you have enjoyed quality time with where you can have meaningful conversation and experiences which do not rely on taking a big and exciting trip. Whatever it might be, we don't know how much longer we will live without our usual distractions of going places and seeing each other as we please so I suggest you reserve the time to take a deep breath and give yourself the permission to enjoy and reflect on everything.

Consider this one idea I heard recently on a podcast. We get really good at being self sufficient and organized that we forget to leave room for the mystery of the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Trained to rely on ourselves and our ability, we close our ears to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit. In this time, as we have seen unfold over the few months, we cannot control a virus or how people act. Not being in control is a hard pill to swallow, but one if we are brave enough to acknowledge will lead us to a humility to acknowledge our failings and truly commit to changing because we want our lives to reflect the life of Christ. As we hear today, Jesus did not come to abolish the law but fulfill it so we can learn and follow the path to have a committed and loving relationship with God and others.

I pray for all of us to have the courage to admit within yourselves where you have come short of living up to your baptismal call. Know that our Lord does not sit in judgement, but as St. Faustina wrote in her in her Diary as Christ told her, "My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world." May you find it in yourselves to forgive those who hurt you and may you find the forgiveness you seek from God and others. Never lose heart for the Spirit of the Lord is upon you to know in your heart 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.

