

June 16, 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: ‘You have learnt how it was said, ‘You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you; love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of the Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what is right have you to claim any credit?’”(Matthew 4:43-45)

If you have ever had an argument with someone, especially which has caused deep emotional scars, it is difficult to forgive those who have harmed you. If anyone has mistreated you, it is hard to forgive them. If you have ever asked for forgiveness by a once trusted friend, it is difficult to forgive and reconcile with that person. But Christ, tells us that is our call. Our call is to forgive and love our enemies. Again, very easy words to say and very difficult to practice to perfection in our daily lives.

Jesus knows that it is difficult so he provides the road map for us to forgive. He tells us to pray for them. Consider that within that act alone, your hate and animosity softens in your heart. Why? In your ability to see beyond your pain and disappointment you can still acknowledge that you are the beloved child of God. In your love and trust in God, you can show compassion to someone who does not trust in God's love for them. The next step, as Jesus instructs, is to know that it is not enough to love those who agree with you, but you need to hear the other side. To truly love your neighbour you must make every attempt to make peace with them. In your act, you come to know God's mercy that you help someone else to God and lead them to make amends with those they have hurt.

I pray in the day and months ahead there finally will be true peace and reconciliation amongst groups who have felt betrayed and abandoned by those who have had the power to make genuine change. During this time, as we return to our daily lives, we must never forget the lessons we have learnt in this time. For change to happen for all will feel safe and equal in this way, let us be prepared to listen and act. May we never forget that those who have been voiceless, shut in, or oppressed need our aid when we abound in opportunity and resources. May it be through God's grace that we find peace and true reconciliation. With Christ's words in our hearts, “Remember I am with you always till the end of days.” Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

