

June 25, 2020-Reflections for Ordinary Time

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear God, we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississauga's of the Credit. We are grateful for the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek Peoples who continue to share their ancestral lands with us.



A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

“Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth, from my mother’s womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength, yet my reward is with the LORD, my recompense is with my God. For now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”
”(Isaiah 49: 1-6)

Yesterday, many of our graduating class picked up their items in their lockers without the fanfare or parade that usually surrounds a graduating class. Yes, they had gown in hand and keep sakes from this year, but we all know that we can not mark those milestones of prom and graduation. It is the cruelty of time where even if they get the pomp and circumstance in the fall, it won't be entirely the same.

However, I am reminded that God has the complete picture of our lives before us, but we need not see it to know that all will be well. Instead, we know that God has a plan for each of us before we even breathe in this world. We also know that our relationship with God is the first one we ever know and unfortunately the one we neglect as we get older until something like a pandemic or tragedy occurs . When these moments of uncertainty occur, we face our lives for what it is and realize how different it is from what it should be. If anything, our graduates are facing an uncertain future, but they do so with the knowledge and experience of facing it in these last few months. As I tell them in their formal virtual graduation:

God has given you the gift of His Son. He has given you the gift of Free Will. Now, more than ever, this is your time to acknowledge how God has blessed you and is calling you to choose how these missed moments will shape a better tomorrow. A future which needs you grounded in the truth and the courage to share your experiences and talent with others.

My prayer for our graduates is to never forget this experience, but remember every lesson God has taught them about resilience. Our future may be uncertain, but God is not. Let us pray for Karolina and her three children. May they rest in peace. May the Ciasullo's family know God is with them in this tragic uncertainty. May Christ's words take hold of our hearts to, "Remember I am with you always till the end of days." Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.