

June 4, 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 Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

“For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God..” (2 Timothy 1:2-3)

More than a week ago, Dr. Abdu Sharkawy, an infectious disease doctor in Toronto, posted his opinion on the crowds gathered in Trinity Bellwoods Park. In his commentary, you could sense his frustration that many who may have intended to practice social and physical distancing forgot to be vigilant. They forgot that there are still many who are fighting COVID-19 and all other sickly people waiting to have surgeries. They forgot about the many people who are waiting to work because their places have been closed. For some, they felt they had the right to reward themselves after being isolated for so long in their home.

Self-Control! Obviously, as we have seen in our communities, there are those who can and those who struggle with staying two metres apart from each other. We have also witnessed those who can keep their calm and cool in moments of crisis and those who lash out and hurt others. We also know that in our society, the struggle many people have in dealing with their addictions, be it to drugs, alcohol, pornography, spending beyond one's means, and gossiping about others. St. Paul, speaking from experience, knows the struggle to remaining and refraining from giving into our basic human urges of survival and pleasure. But, he reminds us that if we remember and stay close to Christ; we have a better chance to remain faithful to our call. He knows that when we fail, we can always go back to God to strengthen us. He also knows that when we stand with Christ, we will find more temptation and challenges, but he reminds us that are call is to serve God. God has given us the gift to have self control. All we have to do is remember and pray. Offer every hardship and struggle to the Lord because it is through Him where we learn self control and can achieve anything.

I pray that all who are struggling with the vices of this world, or with the isolation, ask God for help. When you ask, wait in silence for the answer. Wait to see where God leads. Know that sometimes his grace happens in an instant or is a slow to simmer. Whatever it is, know that God have given you the gift of self control to not give in to your loneliness and selfishness. He never leaves you. Be vigilant in taking care of those around you and leave the rest for the Holy Spirit to guide you. Keep close to 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.