

**May 13, 2020-Reflections for the Easter Season Ms. Albano**

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

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 John***

*“Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes\* to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed\* by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me” (John 15:1-4)*



As the weather becomes nicer, more people will prune their gardens and mow their lawns. One of the few things that opened last weekend to the public was garden centres. Places where people could walk down the aisles, picking flower or vegetable seeds to grow or purchasing items to help defend their lawns from dandelions and other weeds. In the hope that gardening would be a way for people to get outside, destress, and put a pause on COVID-19. As the experts have told us, gardening is a significant way to destress. Personally, I don't know if I would classify it as a time to relax.

Instead, taking care of the lawn and gardening is a task and mission in my list of household chores. Ever since my dad became physically unable to garden and tend to the yard, I do most of it for him. One of my daily tasks is to root out the weed in the yard so grass and flowers can grow in abundance. But dandelions, clovers, and other pesky weeds are persistent that I have to daily check and uproot them so they cannot germinate the rest of the yard so the grass seed has a chance to grow.

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the example of pruning and gardening to explain how God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit influence our lives. If we are to remain faithful to God, we must always stay close to Christ with the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit. In the same way I leave the grass on the lawn and uproot the dandelions from the yard, so does God who removes those people and things in our lives who keep us from His Son. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the eyes to see that we are imperfect and need help to see what is not good for us. Once we display this humility and trust in God, we fully bloom into the human beings God calls us to be so to draw ourselves and others to Him.

I pray that we continue to reevaluate what we value in our life. During this pandemic, we have seen what we need to do to fight the disease and what needs repair in our society so we may value everyone's life. Where our human dignity is not for sale so others may gain more wealth and power. May we have the humility to see what God is calling us to let go, be it a relationship or things, so we can continue to grow in abundance of empathy filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit that urges us to stay close to Christ. May you always carry in your heart the words of Jesus at the Ascension, “Remember I am with you always till the end of days.” Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen