

May 15, 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

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.." (John 15: 12-17)

In February, Ahmaud Arbery was going for a run when two males in a pickup truck shot him, claiming that they were stopping a burglary. Recently, authorities released a video which showed two males following and shooting an unarmed man. A video which spurred an independent law enforcement team to investigate and discover how local authorities covered up the truth. A sad reminder that the story read in *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, and an all too familiar story for blacks in America still rings true in these times. Watching this story and reading about the increase of violence against Asian Canadians reminds us that racism doesn't take a break for COVID-19. These are not examples for the scripture today. Instead, they are incidents which shows what happens when one lets pride and hate take over their lives. When we twist ideas to suit our self-preservation instead of acting with faith and reason.

When these incidents occur, I find hope and strength in the Sacraments of the Church. Being chosen by God is a repeated teaching when preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation. Most cradle Catholics, I hope, have heard that in our imperfect, broken and fragile lives, the Almighty God chooses us. A relationship which defines us all as Christ's brothers and sisters, where we live in prayer and service to God and others.

Last Sunday, Thomas Cardinal Collins passed on what is our mission in this life as another priest taught him. We practice our faith in our head, our heart and our hands. You must know the Lord in your mind, Love the Lord in your heart, and serve the Lord with your hands. Each are equal and important in the faith. Another way that I remember what my mission in life is, is to remember this is to make the sign of the cross. As you say in the name of the Father, I must know God, and in the Son, to love Christ with all my heart, and the Holy Spirit, to serve those on my left and right.

I pray that each of us will come to know Christ through Sacred Scripture, Church teaching, and the writings of our great mystics and theologians. May you come to love the Lord in prayer through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And wherever the Holy Spirit leads you, may you serve those in need from a place which seeks the good. May everyone you meet and serve always see and believe in 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.

