

May 29, 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 Gospel of John

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15-19)



Most of us have experienced a parent who asked us, did you finish your homework? Some of us have been in a relationship where someone asks if we liked what they bought or made for us. Others have been on the phone with an Artificial Intelligent operator for one hour at Rogers or Bell to confirm where we want are complaint or question to go to. Similar to Simon Peter's reaction when Jesus asks him a third time, we are perturbed and frustrated to keep repeating ourselves that we become more firm in our response.

Some scholars point out that the exchange echoes the three times Simon Peter denied Christ to show how far Simon Peter has come since that moment. Other scholars argue that Jesus just wanted to make sure that Simon Peter understood what it means to be his disciple. What we see is that Simon Peter replies with as much gusto and assurance that he is ready to serve the Lord. In the third response, in humility, he says, you know I do and I know what you are asking of me this time. To do what?

Consider the three verbs Jesus uses to instruct what Simon Peter is to do with his love for the Lord.

Feed my lambs: Make sure that you teach the faith to those who know and do not know the Lord.

Tend my sheep: Make sure that you model the faith for the faithful in prayer, knowledge, and service.

Feed my sheep: Make sure that you nourish yourself and the faithful in Word and Sacrament.

But this question is not just for Simon Peter to answer today. It is a question all of us must ask if we are to follow Christ. The question is simple, Do you love Jesus? How would you respond today? Don't forget, Simon Peter denied Jesus three times and through God's mercy and grace Simon Peter leads the early Christians in their ministry of the Lord. In other words, regardless of what you choices you have made or have experienced, you are also being called to answer these questions.

Today, I pray you reread the scripture for reflection and discernment, but substitute Simon Peter name with your own.

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to (your name) (your name) child of (parents name) do you love me more than these?’ I said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to you, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to me, ‘(your name) child of (parents name), do you love me?’ I said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to me, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to me the third time, ‘(your name) child of (parents name), do you love me?’ I felt hurt because he said to me the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And I said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to me, ‘Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15-19)

I hope that this exercise allowed you the opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord. May what you learn influence how you live in relation with God and others. With the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, may we remember 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.