

## **Bishop's Reflection – Passion Sunday**

(Reflection on today's Second Reading: Phillipians 2: 6 -11)

Christ Jesus brings out the best in humanity.

For, as St. Paul tells us, just as “Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,” (2:6), so he invites us, not to be caught up with ourselves, our talents and our achievements, but to empty ourselves, becoming servants of one another, as we see so beautifully lived out on the frontlines of the COVID – 19 pandemic.

Doctors, nurses and health professionals, men and women of great intelligence and myriads of achievements, willing to forego the accolades, the comforts and securities that are theirs, in order to serve their sick brothers and sisters in the trenches, knowing the risk that they take.

Politicians and leaders of governments and political parties, willing to forego the honours of their offices by setting aside their bitter feuds and in-fighting, to be the servants of the public they are called to be.

Grocery shop workers, truck drivers, food producers, factory workers, taxi and bus drivers, pharmacists, care and flight attendants, janitors, garbage collectors and countless other frontline workers, who have never received their due and have always laboured in obscurity, but who give of themselves tirelessly for the well being of society.

Volunteers, food banks, shelters, charities and others who work with the most vulnerable in our society, both in Canada and abroad, whose advocacy on behalf of their brothers and sisters puts them in harms way.

In all of them, Christ continues to empty himself, taking the form a slave.

As we begin our celebration of Holy Week, let us take time to reflect on how Christ's Passion and Death has and continues to transform the world; how his Passion and Death has inspired countless millions to lay down their lives in love for their brothers and sisters, inspiring them to a higher good, a good that reflects the love and mercy of our God.

“Therefore, God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (2: 9 – 11).