

# People Progress

## Sunday Community

April 10, 2022

Passion or Palm Sunday

Elizabeth Whelan

**Virtual Liturgy at 11 AM** on Zoom.

Thank you, Fr. Paul, for celebrating with us.

**Reflection:** by Arthur Blomme

### Ideological Colonization

In recent weeks we are celebrating the long awaited apology of the Vatican for their treatment of indigenous and first nations of Canada. Core to this apology is Francis' description of the nature of the Church's sin in respect to their treatment of the indigenous.

*Yet that tree, rich in fruit, has experienced a tragedy that you described to me in these past days: the tragedy of being uprooted. The chain that passed on knowledge and ways of life in union with the land was broken by a colonization that lacked respect for you, tore many of you from your vital milieu and tried to conform you to another mentality. In this way, great harm was done to your identity and your culture, many families were separated, and great numbers of children fell victim to these attempts to impose a uniformity based on the notion that progress occurs through **ideological colonization**, following programmes devised in offices rather than the desire to respect the life of peoples. This is something that, unfortunately, and at various levels, still happens today: ideological colonization. How many forms of political, ideological and economic colonization still exist in the world, driven by greed and thirst for profit, with little concern for peoples, their histories and traditions, and the common home of creation! Sadly, this colonial mentality remains widespread. Let us help each other, together, to overcome it. (Pope Francis Apology for Residential schools)*

Francis here admits that the church participated in what some liberation theologians call the ideology of death. The programs developed under this ideology did not "respect the life of peoples". Perhaps by understanding better the nature of this ideological sin we can better help each other as Francis says, overcome it.

To demonstrate how deep this ideology of death exists in our world view one only has to consider what Matthew Fox calls the doctrine of discovery. At a very deep level, the beliefs that make up our worldview include the belief that Columbus discovered America. This belief is core to how we justify the colonization of much of the planet by Europe and Christendom. The individuals who founded the dominant Canadian Culture believed they were doing the right thing by destroying the Indian inside the child.

As a species we have an innate reverence for hierarchy which includes a moral hot button for authority. Many of our societies are structured with a small elite class who control the behaviour and aspirations of a much larger group who serve the interests of the small elite. The principle way that the masses are controlled is through ideology. Ideology is a shared set of beliefs or a story, often referred to as a narrative which justifies the vision and outcomes desired by the elite. Liberation theologians now recognize how the thinking of the church serve

the elites in achieving their outcomes. This added wisdom of church thought leaders on how our faith can be manipulated into an ideology of death equips us to better develop a more fruitful relationship with creation. At the same time the tools afforded by surveillance capitalism in the hands of wealthy oligarchies create a greater capacity for small elites to control larger groups, putting us in greater jeopardy to ideologies of death. Ideology is a component of a power relationship in which one group has power over the other.

The three gospel passion narratives use the Gospel of Mark as a source. In his gospel Mark identifies four sources of ideological "power over": the Herodians, vassal authority of the Roman Empire, the scribes and pharisees, the Sadducee and lastly, the zealots represented in the character of Judas Iscariot. These different ideological factions who are normally at war with each other join forces to do away with the decolonizing prophet, Jesus.

### Readings:

<b>Today:</b> Isaiah 50.4-7	Psalm 22	Philippians 2.6-11	Luke 22.14-23.56
Easter: Acts 10.34, 37-43	Psalm 118	Colossians 3.1-4	John 20.1-18

### Liturgy Schedule

Date	Planner(s)	Priest
Today: Palm/Passion Sun.	Art Blomme & Elizabeth Whelan	Fr. Paul McAuley
April 17 Easter	Greg Gillis	Fr. Prakash Lohale
April 24	Lee Piepgrass	Fr. Paul McAuley
May 1	Sharon McCarthy	Fr. Jack Costello
May 8	Sylvia Skrepichuk	-----
May 15	Rita Shaughnessy	Fr. Jack Costello
May 22	Mary Lou Halferty	-----
May 29	Maryanne Stone-Jiménez & Roberto Jiménez	Fr. Paul McAuley
June 5	Mary & John MacMillan	Fr. Jack Costello
June 12	Brenda Holtkamp	-----
June 19	Lindsay & Bill Watson	-----
June 26	Elizabeth Whelan	Fr. Paul McAuley

This schedule, as always, is flexible. As you know, I prepare the list, and leave it to the planners to switch if they can't do the liturgy on the given date. If you switch, or find a replacement, just be sure to tell the People Progress reporter, so that we all know.

**To All:** If you would like to help, or coordinate/plan a liturgy, please let me know.

Thanks, Elizabeth Whelan

### People Progress Schedule:

April: Elizabeth Whelan – [erwhelan@icloud.com](mailto:erwhelan@icloud.com)  
 May: John MacMillan

### Announcements:

- **Liturgies: Thank you,** planners, our priests, and also our priest finder/arranger, Bill Watson. We are incredibly blessed!

As the schedule shows, there are four Sundays without priests. By those dates, we may have priests, but if not, we will have lay-led liturgies. I trust the planners scheduled will be comfortable leading these liturgies. If there are people keen to lead a lay-led liturgy, please let me know. As a guide/support, we will publish a 'liturgy template' soon.

- **Egg cartons:** Please continue to save your empty egg cartons for Elizabeth Stocking. She welcomes cartons and flats, You can deliver them to Elizabeth Whelan, and Elizabeth Stocking will pick them up. She thanks everyone who has contributed them.

### April Birthdays: Happy Birthday to:

4 Art Blomme   5 Evan Mayer   5 Clare Morgan   9 Kieran Gillis   16 Mary Corrado  
20 David Walsh   20 Tony Shaughnessy   23 Brenda Holtkamp   24 Joan Schmidt  
30 John Scandiffio   30 Lindsay Watson

Re-printed weekly for reference:

### Duties of liturgy planners for virtual masses:

Early in the week before the liturgy:

- Call or email the priest to confirm Sunday's liturgy (contact info will be provided).
- Prepare or find a Reflection and send it to the People Progress reporter by Thursday.
- Please notify the People Progress reporter early in the week if you cannot do a Reflection.
- Select readers for the 1st and 2nd readings; check with Brian Halferty regarding the psalm.

On the Sunday of the virtual mass:

- Greet the group (Ask newcomers to introduce themselves)
- Give a brief introduction to the liturgy.
- Read your passage /be prepared to do a reading (if a volunteer is unable to log-in)
- Thank everyone who 'attended' and those who helped (at Announcements)