

Grace Notes in Miniature

For Friday, May 1, 2020

Dear friends:

Today our bishops have entrusted our country to the care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, asking for her intercession on our behalf.

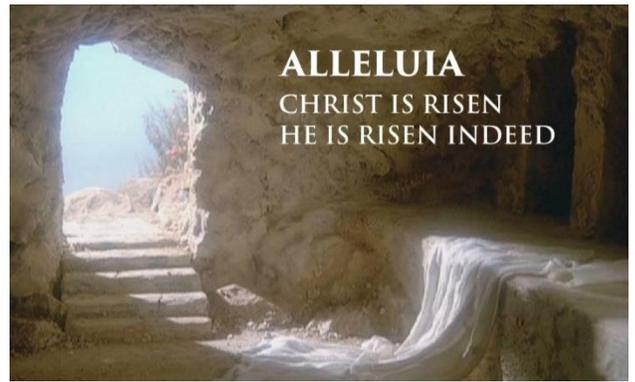
You can find the prayers offered in this Consecration at

<https://hamiltodiocese.com/uploads/docs/News/Marian%20Consecration%201%20May%202020.pdf>

Note particularly the Regina Caeli at the end, a short prayer that we can teach to our students:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

For Christ, your Son and Son of God, alleluia, has risen as He said, alleluia. Pray to God for us, alleluia.



I was intrigued to read of the dedication of a mosque in Abu Dhabi to Our Lady: Formerly known as the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Mosque, after Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince, it was henceforth to be known as the 'Maryam Umm Issa' Mosque, Arabic for 'Mary, Mother of Jesus.' You can read the story at: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32836>

This is strong testimony to the ties among the Abrahamic Faith Traditions, those who trace their beginnings – as we do through Jesus' Jewish ancestry, to the Patriarch Abraham.

There is a Surah (chapter) in the Qur'an, Surah Maryam, about Mary and she is no stranger to people who are Muslim. Jesus, whom they call Issa, is considered by them to be a prophet.

Perhaps today brings a bit of sadness for you as it was initially the day we had hoped to be back in our schools preparing for the students to return on Monday. The delay is frustrating but teaching us much about the virtue of patience. This virtue has been a lifelong struggle for me and I frequently pray: "Lord, please give me patience – but please, Lord, right now!" Somehow that helps but it is a constant work in progress.

It will be quite different for us to be celebrating Catholic education week from home this year; however, the uniqueness of this situation is an opportunity to reflect on all the things we value about our freedom to be educated in a community of faith. Our Secondary Chaplains, Religious Education Consultant Patricia Dal Ben, Strategic Communications, some of our talented musicians in the Board and several other staff members have been working hard to create

materials which reflect our HCDSB; these will be used in conjunction with the package from the Ontario Catholic Trustees' Association which may have already been shared with you and much of which can be found on StaffNet >Board Services>Focus on Faith>Catholic Education Week. We even have a terrific recording of the theme song produced by some of the aforementioned talent!

It seems very prescient that the theme this year should be hope as we can certainly use that right now. I am very fond of a saying I learned from one of my Padre colleagues: 'There is no such thing as coincidence, just God being anonymous!'

Some musical offerings to enlighten your day! These children are sharing a lot of enthusiasm in their singing – a beautiful sign of hope for our future!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLRgR8HlMv8>

A different recording of Ave Maria but very uplifting in the experience of listening to it as it is sung in the original German.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQVz6vuNq7s>

Despite being one of the world's favourite settings of 'Ave Maria', **Schubert** never actually wrote a piece called 'Ave Maria'.

Schubert's music was actually called 'Ellens dritter Gesang', which translates as 'Ellen's Third Song'. He wrote it in 1825, aged 28, to the words of Sir Walter Scott's epic poem *The Lady of the Lake*. The song does contain the words 'Ave Maria', but only in reference to the prayer itself.

Now one of Schubert's most popular works, 'Ave Maria' has been recorded by numerous artists, with lyrics that largely differ from the original poem.

Maria Callas **Luciano Pavarotti** and Celine Dion have all recorded beautiful versions.

Here is Andrea Bocelli singing the Bach/Gounod version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKUJwK8zOCc> and an instrumental

version featuring Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyUhEjtlDLA>

Wishing you beautiful spring weekend,

Gillian

