

9th April "Comfort my People" REFLECTION (1)

I found today's reflection in my email today. Ron Rolheiser OMI is a theology lecturer in San Antonio, Texas. His turn of phrase is frequently thought-provoking.

Today's segment evokes a call to continue charitably in lockdown, especially in the de-escalation weeks that lie ahead.

Tomorrow's extract links directly with the words of Jesus in the gospel reading of the day, 'Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works.' (Jn 14:12)

There is a Norwegian proverb that reads: Heroism consists of hanging on one minute longer.

When I was a child one of the stories assigned to us told the story of a young boy who had fallen through the ice while skating and was left clinging, cold and alone, to the edge of the ice with no help in sight. As he hung on in this seemingly hopeless situation he was tempted many times to simply let go since no one was going to come along to rescue him. But he held on, despite all odds. Finally, when everything seemed beyond hope, he clung on one minute longer and after that extra minute help arrived.

Scripture teaches much the same thing about moral heroism: In the Second Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul ends a long, challenging admonition by stating: You must never grow weary of doing what is right. And in his letter to the Galatians, Paul virtually repeats the Norwegian proverb: Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. *(The second reading last Sunday reminded us "The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently ... because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. [1 Pet 2:20-21])*

This sounds so simple and yet it cuts to the heart of many of our moral struggles. We give up too soon, give in too soon, we simply don't carry tension long enough.

To be continued tomorrow.