

Update from All Saints'

Email to the Parish from The Venerable Christopher Dunn

12 May 2020

I realized today that this would have been my Father's 90th Birthday -- I lost my Dad way back in 2002, and there are not many days that go by when I do not think of him in some way or another. As a scientist he worked hard to provide for his family, but he was also very engaged with the broader community. He was a Cub Akela for over 45 years. He was also a man of great faith, and he saw no difficulty in the connection between belief and science.

So today is International Nurses Day in the midst of our National Nursing Week (from May 11th to 17th). Did you know that this is also the day that the Church celebrates **Florence Nightingale**? While Florence is not a saint, May 12th is the day that the Anglican Church of Canada commemorates her; this year marks the 200th anniversary of her birth and she died in 1910. The book, *For All The Saints*, records this about Florence Nightingale:

"We remember Florence Nightingale chiefly for her work during the Crimean War, which took place between 1854 and 1856. Hearing the voice of God and animated by the spirit of service, she organized the first modern nursing service in the British field hospitals at Scutari and Balaclava. In the midst of appalling conditions she was tireless in her efforts to relieve the sufferings of wounded and dying soldiers. Her solitary vigils in the hospital wards led the popular press to call her "the Lady of the Lamp" and "the Angel of Scutari." Within four years of her return from the Crimea, Nightingale's health broke down, and she eventually became a house-bound invalid. But she continued to influence public policy, and her labours helped to disperse the age-old prejudice against nurses, giving their profession high respectability. Her example also helped to liberate middle-class women from their subordinate and passive role in society. By the time of her death at the age of ninety, her reputation had assumed mythical proportions, and

to this day she is still honoured as the founder of the modern profession of nursing."

I think that all of us appreciate all the work, care, and love that Nurses express each day in their work. During this particularly challenging time we give thanks for all the women and men who step out each day to heal and care for so many. God bless all our nurses.

Today's prayer:

"Life-giving God, you alone have power over life and death, over health and sickness. Give power, wisdom, and gentleness to those who follow the lead of Florence Nightingale, that they, bearing with them your presence, may not only heal but bless, and shine as lanterns of hope in the darkest hours of pain and fear; through Jesus Christ, the healer of body and soul, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen"

May we all shine a light in the midst of the darkness and bring healing,

Chris