

**Pastoral Reflection
Easter Sunday, 2022**

*[Rise up] O sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.
Rise up, work of my hands, for you were created in my image.
Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you.
Together . . . we cannot be separated! [1]*

I believe the Christian faith is saying that *the* pattern of transformation is always *death transformed, not death avoided*. The universal spiritual pattern is death and resurrection, or loss *and* renewal, if you prefer. That is always a disappointment to humans, because we want one without the other—transformation without cost or surrender.

We ordinarily learn to submit and surrender to this scary pattern only when reality demands it of us, as it is doing now. Christians are helped by the fact that Jesus literally submitted to it and came out more than okay. Jesus is our guide, the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith,” as the Letter to the Hebrews puts it (12:2).

Each time we surrender, each time we trust the dying, we are led to a deeper level. We are grounded for a while, like an electric wire, so there is less resistance and more available energy to trust it the next time. Yet it is still invariably a leap of faith, a walk through some degree of darkness.

There is something essential that we only know by dying. We really don’t know what life is until we know what death is. Divine Life is so big, so deep, and so indestructible, that it is able to include death. In her March Newsletter from The Omega Center, entitled “Hope in a Time of Crisis,” Franciscan sister and scientist Ilia Delio wrote:

Christianity can help us realize that death and resurrection are part of the evolutionary path toward wholeness; letting go of isolated existence for the sake of deeper union. Something dies but something new is born—which is why the chaos of our times is, in a strange way, a sign of hope; something new is being born within. Out of chaos, a star is born. Breakdown can be break through if we recognize a new pattern of life struggling to emerge.

We may find Ilia’s words challenging but I hope we also find them encouraging—reminding us to look for new signs of life and new ways of being, today and in the days to come.

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

References:

[1] Adapted from an ancient Christian homily, *Days of the Lord: Easter Triduum*, (Liturgical Press: 1993), 36.

[2] Delio, Ilia. 2020. “Dear God,” *The Omega Center*, March 16, 2020, <https://omegacenter.info/dear-god/>

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Just This* (CAC Publishing: 2017), 79.



**St. Cronan Catholic Church
Easter Sunday
April 16-17, 2022**

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m

There will be no Wednesday Mass on April 20.

Masks are required for all Masses

Live-streaming continues at the 10:00 am Mass. PLEASE BE ON TIME! Live-streamed masses are available on our Facebook page any time after the 10:00 Mass, <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan>

The Mass for Sunday, May 1 will be recorded and placed on our website: <https://www.stcronan.org/>



Archdiocesan Education Survey: As part of the All Things New strategic pastoral planning initiative, you are encouraged to share your input about Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The survey is open to all current/former/prospective parents, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, donors, volunteers, and community members of both Catholic Schools and Parish-based Religious Education programs. The survey is available to be completed from April 5 through May 2 and can be accessed here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDUCATIONSURVEY2022. For any questions, email allthingsnew@archstl.org or please call the office: (314) 289-9384. We need as many participants as possible. THANKS! If you would like further information, you can visit the Archdiocese’s website <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/> or call our office at 314-289-9384. You can also leave comments about the process at this website.



Collection for Priest's Retirement: This second collection will take place on Easter Sunday and benefits our own Fr. Gerry and other priests who have served so faithfully. Please be generous.

Rice Bowls: Please return your rice bowls for Catholic Relief Services to one of the Triduum services, or on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

Coffee and Donuts is back! Please join us in the Hospitality Room in the Parish Center after the 10:00 Mass. There are no Coffee and Donuts, today, Easter Sunday.

Help Me With Vital Statistics We are updating our data bases in the Parish Office and we need your help. We have noticed that many parishioners do not have a "joined date" entered in their profiles. If you remember the date you joined St. Cronan as an active parishioner, please shoot Mary a short email mary@stcronan.org or give her a call 314-289-9384. Even if it's just the year. That way we can update our data base. We don't know if we will need this important info for "All Things New" or not, but certainly, these vital statistics are needed for other purposes. Thank you for your assistance.

Hidden Mercy: A Discussion and Book Signing with Michael O'Loughlin, St. Francis Xavier College Church, April 21, 7:00 p.m. Michael will speak about the way the Catholic Church compassionately ministered to the LGBTQ Community most impacted by the AIDS epidemic. For more information, please see the flyer in the Chapel.

Metropolitan Congregations United has invited congregations to participate in Earth Day by representing St. Cronan at their booth, and several additional places to be involved this Spring. Please see the flyer in the Chapel for information to volunteer.

Retrouvaille-St. Louis weekend, August 19 – 21, 2022 - Healing Your Marriage--Retrouvaille (French for "Rediscovery") is a 3-phase program designed to give you the tools to restore your marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. For more information or to register, call **314.453.0110** or visit website: www.HelpOurMarriage.org Fully Confidential and affordable. Space is limited with Covid-19 precautions. Register early. Questions: Tom & Kerry Marsh 314.753.2022

Mid-life Singles: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at King's House Retreat Center, Belleville, IL (20 min from downtown St. Louis), on June 3-5, 2022. Cost is \$215 including meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call (314) 283-0044 for details.

First Communion will take place Sunday, May 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Church. It is for the children and their families, and will be live-streamed for the Community to join us. We will have cards available April 24 for you to sign to support our First Communicants with your prayers.

The Gardening Committee, who take care of the Church grounds, are in need of pots for thinning plants. You can leave them on the side of the rectory.

Stations of the Cross in Atonement for Abuse and for the Healing of All were offered online on Friday April 8 at 3:00 p.m. They are available on our Website and Facebook Page.

Live Meetings: We are opening up for live meetings. If your committee or organization would like to meet live in the Coffee and Donut room or conference room at the Parish Center, please contact Mary, mary@stcronan.org to schedule your date and time.

Donations for Ukraine: If you would like to help, please give to the Ukrainian Children's Aid and Relief Effort, Inc. or UCARE, Inc., which is a charity serving the needy and orphaned children of Ukraine. If anyone wants to financially help the Ukrainian situation, please consider this charity. The website is www.ucareinc.org. Bob Hoffman has worked with this group for years..

Compassionate St. Louis: St. Cronan has become a member of this movement to help make our city a more compassionate place. You will be seeing their logo on our bulletins and signs. For further information, please visit their website: <https://www.compassionate-stl.org/about-us>

Day-Long Women's Retreat: Mark your Calendars! Women's Day Long Retreat planned for Saturday, June 25, 2022. Tentative time from 8:30am to 4:30pm. In person and outdoors. Centrally located near Hampton and Hwy 44. Theme and details to follow. Donna Moromarco, Kim Madden, and Mary Middendorf are in the planning stages. Express your interest in attending by emailing mary.middendorf@gmail.com as soon as possible. Space is limited.

Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative: Be the change you wish to see. As Catholics, it is our spiritual duty to combat the sin of personal and institutional racism. Could you use additional resources to understand and identify what it means to be anti-racist in your life? Follow the @Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative on Facebook at Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative or visit our website at www.catholicracialjusticestl.org.

Prayers Please: Laurel Hayes; Laurel Hayes' parents, Jerry and Nancy; Rose; Robert Nathe's Mother, Eileen; Colleen Wallace's godson, Lachlan; Michelle Frank; Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers; Jessica; Nick Ambrose; Al Sprehe; Phil Milner; Leslie Conway; Mike's grandson, Jack; Jim Gorman; Andrew Viraugh's father,; Sharon Orlet's sister, Betty; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne; Kathy Bayless; Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan's brother, Steve; Barry Buchek's wife, Mary; Trish Curtis' mother and brother; Gavin Barrett-Hayes; Barb Sopp's cousin, Patty Struckhoff; Marie and Roland Martir's granddaughters, Maggie and Madie; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Fr. Gerry's classmate, Fr. Pat O'Laughlin; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello; Marcy Soda.