

**Pastoral Reflection**  
**August 28, 2022**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Ordinary Time**

I had many a lesson in humility when I was in graduate school and beginning my psychotherapy training in earnest. Humility, after all, shares its root with humiliation—from the Latin “humus,” meaning of the earth or ground. Humility keeps us grounded, but its lessons can often involve humiliation. Very few things are as humbling or, at times, as humiliating as being a twenty-something clinical trainee sitting across from a survivor of war crimes who is twice your age, listening to their stories, and hoping against hope that you’re at least not making things *worse*. During my training, I had many opportunities to ask myself questions that still sometimes plague me: who am *I* to be in the therapist’s seat? What am I *actually* doing to serve this person? Who let me do this, anyway? (The answer to the latter question is, apparently, the state of Missouri.)

In my work today, a few years on, I still recall the advice my supervisor gave me one day during those early days of my training: our two greatest tools are curiosity and stupidity. This line, delivered matter-of-factly—and, well, *humbly*—took me aback and rightfully knocked me down a few pegs. I wasn’t going to help anybody if my goal was dazzling them with my brilliant interpretations of their unconscious conflicts—but I might have a shot if I listened deeply to them and remembered that I *didn’t* have it all figured out. It’s in being open to what we *don’t* know that we can truly be open to the unknown within another person, which is where real intimacy starts, and thus real opportunity to be of service.

On the other hand, it’s easy to fall into false humility. Humility is not refusing to acknowledge our gifts. Humility is not self-flagellating. Humility isn’t insecurity or low self-esteem.

In fact, security in our own gifts is an important step towards achieving an honest humility, as it frees us from the need to be constantly affirming ourselves—often by putting others down, or by elevating ourselves above others. Feeling confident that we are enough *as we are now* provides a security of self that enables us to truly meet another person in open-hearted encounter, without needing to guard against fear of being rejected or overwhelmed by them.

After all, as a beginning therapist, it wasn’t because I was certain of my brilliant clinical skills that I would often pressure myself to know exactly how to help the person in front of me—it was because I was new and insecure in my work. When I was reminded that my curiosity and even my stupidity were *enough*, I was freed up within myself to listen to my patients and learn from *them* what they needed.

Like Jesus reminds us in today’s Gospel, “when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’” May we remember that it is enough to be invited to the table at all, and in keeping this in mind, maybe we will have the pleasant and unbidden surprise of being celebrated not for who we *think* we need to be, but for who we *really* are—stupidity and all.

**Loren Barnes Gaillardetz**



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**Twenty-second Sunday,**  
**Ordinary Time**  
**August 27-28, 2022**

**Mass Information**

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m

Masks are suggested 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, September 4, will be recorded and posted on our website on Saturday, September 3: <https://www.stcronan.org/>



**ALL THINGS NEW**

Young adults, ages 18-39, single or married, with or without children, are invited to take the young adult survey. Take this opportunity to inform the church of St. Louis about your experience, hopes and needs.

<https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Ways-to-Engage/Young-Adult-Survey>

Connect to young adults: <https://stlyoungadults.com/>

**Seeds of Justice Network:** Interested in social justice activities in our area? Visit [www.seedsofjusticenetwork.org](http://www.seedsofjusticenetwork.org) or use the QR code on the flyer in the Chapel to sign up for the Seeds of Justice Network newsletter! The weekly email features a justice-focused article of the week, a listing of local events, and a few national events & trainings.



**St. Cronan Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Survey:** The St. Cronan Parish Council would like you to complete a survey regarding our work toward becoming an anti-racist parish. For further information, please read Andrew Viragh's letter on Cronan Talk. The Survey can be accessed here: [ABAR Survey](#)

**Sock Angel Campaign:** Starting this Sunday, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the St. Peter Claver Sock Angel campaign by providing adult-sized socks to be distributed to St. Louis homeless people in September. A bin and a sign will be in the chapel to receive your socks.

**Welcome Neighbor Dinner** will be held at St. Margaret of Scotland, 3854 Flad Ave. on Friday, September 23, at 6:30 pm. Cost: \$35 per person. For the menu and details, please see the flyer in the chapel. To register, please see the link on CronanTalk. Some of us from St. Cronan are going and you are welcome to join us.

**Coffee and Donuts** is moving to City Greens this week, after 10:00 Mass. Please join us as we learn about this wonderful Market and find about ways to support its contributions to the Grove.

**The Word Among Us:** This daily meditation book is available free of charge in the Chapel. Feel free to take one for September.

**Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage:** Craving spiritual growth? Asking God to lead you down the right path? or perhaps you're... Yearning for fellowship? Longing for more prayer time? **If you answered yes to any or all of these questions (or if we just grabbed your attention), try being led to Him through Her! Please consider joining us for a Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage informational meeting:** Thursday, September 15th at 6:45 PM at **St. John the Baptist-Gildehaus Catholic Church Rectory 5567 Gildehaus Road, Villa Ridge, MO 63089 Phone: 636-583-2488 ...we hope to see you there!** And remember, if you're asking God to guide your footsteps, be willing to move your feet! **For more information, please visit our website at [KatyTrailPilgrimage.com](http://KatyTrailPilgrimage.com) or send us an email at [MarianPilgrimage77@gmail.com](mailto:MarianPilgrimage77@gmail.com)**

**Archdiocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass** will be celebrated Sunday, October 9, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica. Archbishop Rozanski will preside. This Mass is for married couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 years of marriage in 2022. Please register by September 9: [archstl.org/jubilee](http://archstl.org/jubilee) or call (314) 792-7171

**St. Pius V Anti-racism & Equity Working Group** is sponsoring The Slavery, History, Memory, and Reconciliation Project with Fr. Jeff Harrison, SJ, a workshop presented on Sunday, Sept. 18, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at St. Pius V Singler Hall. For further information, please see the flyer attached.

**Rest in Peace, Willie.** We are setting up a fund to help pay for the funeral and hopefully to provide a little assistance to his daughter Nina. She lost her Mother this past year and now her Father. I ask those who are able to generously give to our fund for Willie. We are partnering with Midtown to support Willie's daughter and to pay for the funeral arrangements. Please help us assist Willie's family during these difficult times. Any checks should be made out to St. Cronan and in the memo section please write "Willie". – Fr. Jack

**National Collection for the Catholic University of America** will take place next weekend. Envelopes are available in the pews By giving to the collection, you are supporting future Catholic leaders who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education. Please be generous.

**Being Who You Are, Perfectly Well:** An LBGTQIA+ Catholics, Families and Friends Retreat will take place November 18-20 at the Mercy Retreat Center. For further details visit this link: <https://marianistsjc.net/lgbtq-retreat>

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE** If you're looking for a way to make a positive difference in the lives of immigrant or refugee families in the St. Louis area, read on...IHELP (Immigrant Home English Learning Program) and the former ETP (English Tutoring Project) are merging time and talent to teach English in the homes of immigrant and refugee families. More volunteers are needed two days a week for one-hour sessions, during the day or in the evening. Training and materials will be provided.

If you are curious and would like to know more, please contact Christina Rumbold at 314.390.5706, or send in a volunteer application on the website at <http://ihelpstl.org/volunteers>.

**National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows QPR Suicide Prevention Training** Wednesday, September 7, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Shrine's Guild Center (near Shrine Church) Learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to "question, persuade, and refer" someone to help. Registration is required due to space limitations. **Candlelight Vigil for Those Lost to Suicide\*\*** Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Shrine's Lourdes Grotto Registration: QPR training/Candlelight Vigil at [SNOWS.ORG/Vigil](http://SNOWS.ORG/Vigil) or call 618-394-6281.

**National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Guild Center** *A History of Sin: From Adam – Augustine* Presenter: Mark Etling, Ph.D. Saturdays, August 31, September 3, 10 & 17, 10 a.m. – 12 Noon At first glance it may seem odd to think that sin has a history - but it does. The saga of sin is a long journey with many twists and turns. In this series we'll see that there are several different meanings of sin in the Old Testament. And we'll trace the evolution of sin through some of the important theologians of the early Church. Join us for the history of sin from Adam to Augustine. Cost: \$40 for series; \$10 per session For more information, call 618-394-6281. Register online at <https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs/>

**Prayers Please:** Kathy Bayless; Barry Buchek's wife, Mary; Trish Curtis' mother and brother; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello; Shelly Kurtz; Varrietta Anthony; Teresa Sullivan's friend, Caroline Bucci; Kathy Stock's niece, Jill; Fr. Jack's brother, Mike; Natalie Johnson and the Johnson family; Diane Calcaterra; Sr. Lynne's friend, Jan Berberich, SSND; Barb Sopp's friend, Joe Sinibaldi; Bob Barnicle; Paul Schmitt., Sr. Chabanel; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's cousin, Tammy Bayes; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Barry Buchek; Mary Proot's daughter, Jennifer Trim.