

Pastoral Reflection
25th Sunday, Ordinary Time
September 17-18, 2022

Today's readings focus on greed and corruption. This reflection from Fr. Albert Nolan and Fr. Richard Rohr discuss how the poor and peasants were exploited and oppressed by corrupt governments and the rich. How do we counter this corruption today?

Reading the Signs of The Times

Author and Dominican priest Albert Nolan has written many prophetic works that bring attention to systems of oppression throughout the world. His writings were influential in ending apartheid in his own nation of South Africa. Today he explains the spirals of violence that Jesus would have witnessed and encountered firsthand.

Prophets are typically people who can foretell the future, not as fortune-tellers, but as people who have learned to read the signs of their times. It is by focusing their attention on, and becoming fully aware of, the political, social, economic, military, and religious tendencies of their time that prophets are able to see where it is all heading.

Reading the signs of his times would have been an integral part of Jesus' spirituality.

In the first place, like many of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus must have seen the threatening armies of a powerful empire on the horizon—in this case the Roman Empire. Imperial power was well known to the prophets. At one time or another the people of Israel had been oppressed by the Egyptians, the Canaanites, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, and the Greeks. The prophets warned against collaborating with these power structures and promised that each of them would one day decline and fall—which they did. In this the prophets saw the finger of God.

In Jesus' view, it would only be a matter of time before the Roman armies felt sufficiently provoked to attack and destroy Jerusalem. . . .

For most Jews, the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem would mean the destruction of their worship, their culture, and their nation. Jesus' concern was not for the future of the temple but for the people of Jerusalem, especially the women and children who would suffer so much at the hands of the Romans (Luke 19:44; 21:21-24).

What Jesus must also have seen was the spiral of violence in which the Galilean peasants were caught up...Jesus himself would have been a peasant...Peasants were not only poor, they were exploited and oppressed—and not only by the Romans, but also by the Herods and the rich landowners.

Jesus, reading the signs of the times from the perspective of a Galilean peasant, would have seen that this spiral of violence held no hope for the poor and the oppressed. The people were powerless and helpless [*and the victims of huge structural violence which is largely invisible except to those who are suffering from it.* –RR]

Two thousand years later, prophets still raise their voices against the spirals of violence that continue to rob the poor and the oppressed of hope. Do we even hear them? Are we any more likely to act on their wisdom than our biblical ancestors or do we also dismiss them and their message? I'm afraid it's the latter, but it is only by choosing the former that we play our part as disciples of Jesus.

Albert Nolan, *Jesus Today: A Spirituality of Radical Freedom* (Orbis Books: 2006) 65-66.

Richard Rohr, *Reading the Signs of the Times*, Center for Action and Contemplation, March 17, 2020.



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Twenty-fifth Sunday,
Ordinary Time
September 17-18, 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, October 2, will be recorded and posted on our website on Saturday, October 1: <https://www.stcronan.org/>



ALL THINGS NEW

Our St. Cronan listening sessions are scheduled for November 1st and 3rd in the evening. Mark your calendars! Parishioners must register to attend one of them. The following link will allow you to register and will also provide a way to study the proposed models for our area. We hope to have an assembly in October to prepare us for the sessions, so it is very important that you read the material and register for the listening sessions. <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Ways-to-Engage/Listening-Sessions>

For further information, please see the insert in today's bulletin.



St. Cronan Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Survey: The Survey is now closed. Thanks to all who participated. Information concerning next steps will be available soon. If you have any thoughts or questions, please contact Andrew Viragh, andrew.viragh@gmail.com or Justin Lorenz, jmlorenz@gmail.com

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.

Tower Grove Pridefest St. Cronan is having a booth to welcome our LBGTQIA+ brothers and sisters Saturday, September 24 and Sunday 25. Volunteers are needed to staff the table both days from 11:00 – 6:00. To sign up for a time slot, please see the poster in the Chapel, or visit the Google sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UegDek0CVQWbHJcCia05iWYhoQmQ6KlsaxtqK3Ya4I/edit?usp=sharing>

ACA Final Report: A message from Brian Niebrugge: Thank you for all of your work to make the 2022 *Annual Catholic Appeal* such a success! Because of the efforts of our pastors, parish life coordinators, parish staff, and parish volunteers, the *Appeal* was able to raise over \$16.8 million from more than 36,700 households! I am grateful for your role in this success.

Published Goal:	\$13,455
Challenge Goal:	\$20,052
Total:	\$20,502
New Donor Goal	14
Number new donors:	22

St. Francis Xavier College Church is holding a three-part exploration of the racial history of College church, integral to the story of the founding and development of the city of St. Louis, the Archdiocese, the Society of Jesus and St. Louis University. Session one: Slavery, Faith, and the Pursuit of Freedom is this Sunday, Sept. 18, 12:00-1:30 p.m. at the College Church Lower Level. A light lunch is provided at 12:45. Upcoming sessions will occur on Oct. 16 and Nov. 20. Please see the flyer in the Chapel.

St. Louis Black History Bus Tour: Fr. Gerry has been leading these tours on select Saturday mornings for members of the Archdiocese. If there is an interest at St. Cronan's, we will schedule one in the near future. The tour would leave St. Cronan's parking lot on a Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and return to St. Cronan at 1:00 p.m., with an opportunity to eat lunch and discuss with Fr. Gerry at the Parish Center after. Please see the flyer in the chapel for details. To show your interest in a tour, please contact Paul.loida@bayer.com ; Berniesalmons@aol.com ; tulsabillw@gmail.com

Pax Christi: Make plans to participate in the Bread Not Stones Days of Actions, Sept. 19-26. Find the Bread Not Stones organizing toolkit at <https://paxchristiusa.org/bread-not-stones-2022> Prayer cards with suggested actions are in the chapel.

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

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>

SLUH Mothers Club 95th Annual Fall Social October 2nd Whether you are an alumni or current or future SLUH parent, or are just looking for a fun afternoon, all are welcome! Please join us in the Si Commons on Sunday, October 2 from 11 AM until 2:30 PM for games, food, shopping and a fashion show. Reservations are \$12 for the event with an optional lunch for an additional \$12. Buy a single ticket or request group seating. See old friends and make new ones! This long-standing event (formerly Card Party) is not to be missed! Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/SLUHFallSocial> by **September 26!**

The Reclamation Center of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is holding an open house Wednesday October 26 and Monday November 7, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please see the flyer in the chapel.

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 in the Chapel.

St. Louis Friends of Bethlehem Trivia Night Fundraiser to benefit Palestinian farmers and families will take place September 30. All the details and registration info are in flyer in the chapel. You can come as an individual and join an existing team or bring your own team. We hope you can join us!

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, Claire and Alex Wallenda-Zoppe'and family; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa.