

St. Cronan Pastoral Reflection
July 5, 2026, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Last week, we heard from Jesus's Missionary Discourse in Chapter 10 of Matthew that God is on a mission in our world and that we are called to participate with Jesus in God's mission as missionary disciples. We were also told about the cost of discipleship. Jesus said, "Whoever does not take up their cross and follow after me is not worthy of me."

This weekend in Matthew 11, we learn of growing opposition to Jesus by the religious leaders in Jerusalem who are scandalized by Jesus's call to costly discipleship. And yet, by the grace of God, we do accept this call. Jesus responds to us as our friend, praying, "I give praise to you, God of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to these little ones." Jesus goes on to say, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Last week in Romans 6, Paul asked, "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" This week in Romans 8, St. Paul goes on to encourage us, saying, "You are in the Spirit. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you." God never abandons those who align their lives with the mission of Jesus.

Today's Old Testament reading from the Prophet Zechariah, Chapter 9, prefigures Jesus: "A just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass. The warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations." Our Mass today invites us into this mission of peace.

On July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Second Continental Congress formally severed the political ties of the thirteen American colonies from Great Britain. Serendipitously, based on the two Greek words that make up its name, *philos* and *adelphos*, Philadelphia speaks of itself as *the city of brotherly love*. Martin Luther King Jr spoke of *the beloved community*. These words speak to our hope as missionary disciples and as citizens. No matter our religious affiliation or the country of our citizenship, we are called as people of goodwill to be brothers and sisters to one another.