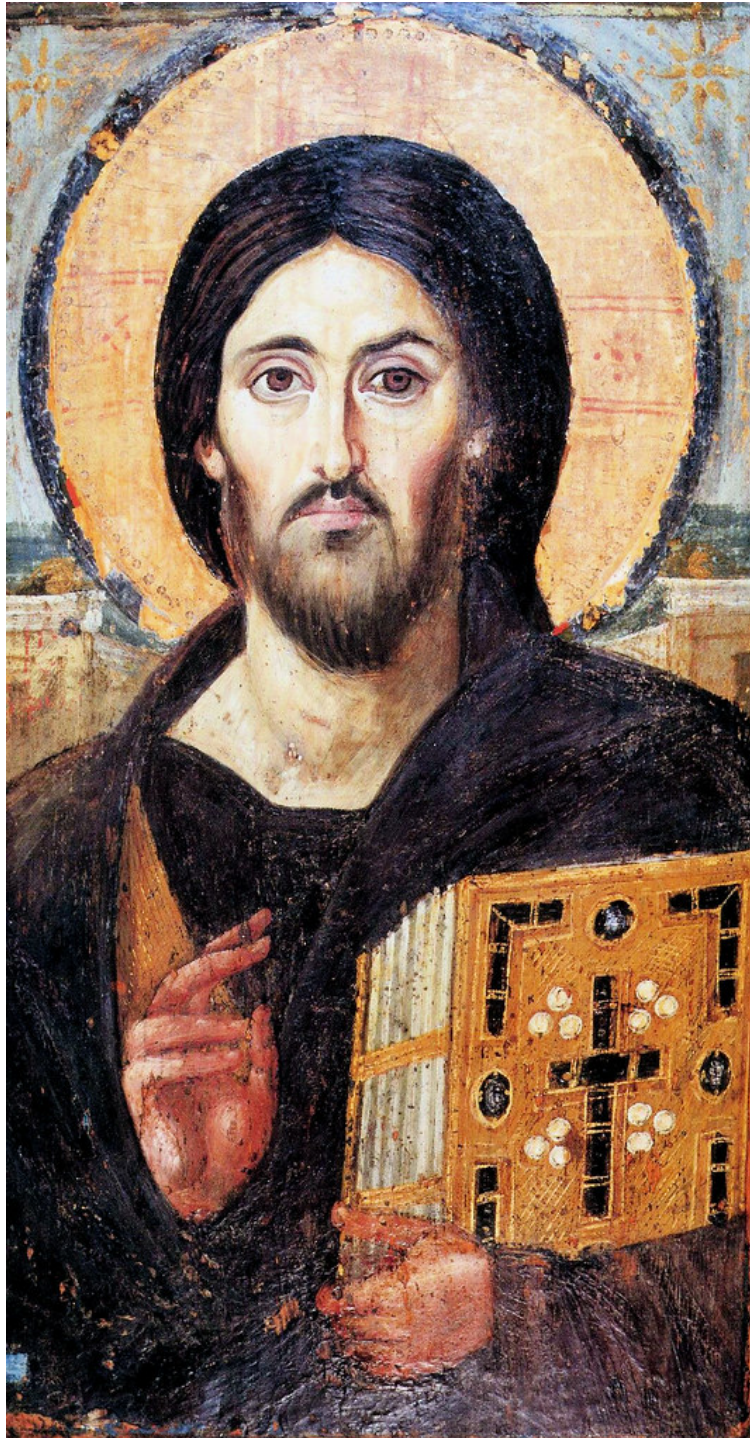


Making the Most
of the
Fullness of Time

Fr. Roger J. Landry
UNSRC Catholic Club
November 4, 2021



Catholics and Time

- Catholics are now in the month of November, in which we ponder, on All Saints Day, the meaning of life, and on All Souls Day, the “last things” of death, judgment, heaven and hell.
- It’s a time for us to ponder time and how we use it.
- Many earthly gurus and executive coaches speak about “time management” and give helpful practices.
- How do we as Catholics with faith approach the subject of time?



Approaching Time

- To set the scene for our discussion, I share some reflections from Chris Flannery, from his Oct. 26 *The American Story* podcast:
- “I had some time on my hands. And before I knew it, I had time on my mind. And it occurred to me that time works in mysterious ways.
- “Everyone knows there are good times and bad times. But how did things get this way? It's a mystery that has kept the greatest minds scratching their heads since the beginning of time. Time flies, marches on, and sometimes just stands still. You could buy time, be on borrowed time, or run out of time. But there's a first time for everything. And the third time's the charm.



Approaching Time

- “Some modern scientists say time is an illusion. But try selling that jam to the reveler who's just starting to let the good times roll when the local authority announces it's closing time, with the fellow who feels like his time has come, but the girl of his dreams won't give him the time of day.
- “If you're an optimist, you console yourself with a reflection that time is on your side. But don't count on it. Somehow all times are the best of times and the worst of times. Just when you feel like you're having the time of your life, a folk singer comes along to tell you the times they are a-changing. And you better keep up with the times or hard times are coming, maybe the end times.
- “There's the nick of time, the perfect time, half time, and thanks to Shakespeare, the whirligig of time. Whatever is going on where you find yourself, somewhere someone is having a hard time in the old town tonight.



Approaching Time

- “We all hope our convictions, cars, home appliances and friendships will stand the test of time. But only time will tell. You can keep time, kill time, blow time, or have a whale of a time, but you want to be ready when the time is right. You can be full-time, part-time or working overtime, but you know your boss is not starting a philosophical conversation when he tells you, “It’s about time.”
- “Time is so capacious that as the good book reminds us there’s a time to every purpose under heaven. And this is the thought that took me back in time to ...”



Time Management

- When we think about time management, many of us will think about Steven Covey's great advice in *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	<u>Quadrant I</u> <i>urgent and important</i> DO	<u>Quadrant II</u> <i>not urgent but important</i> PLAN
NOT IMPORTANT	<u>Quadrant III</u> <i>urgent but not important</i> DELEGATE	<u>Quadrant IV</u> <i>not urgent and not important</i> ELIMINATE



Time and the Bible

- As Catholics, however, we have to have a deeper approach to time and how to manage it.
- We know that God created time in the beginning when he created the heavens and the earth and that everything develops within his providential care.
- This is seen in the background behind one of the more famous Biblical passages on time from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:
- “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”
- This seems to suggest a certain “cyclical” repetitiveness to time.



The Fullness of Time

- But the Catholic idea of time focuses more on the notion of the direction of time toward a plentiude.
- “When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption” (Gal 4:4)
- “Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: ‘This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mk 1:14-15).
- The fullness of time happens when the eternal Lord of time enters history, something that changes our understanding and approach of time.
- “Behold, now is a very acceptable time [*kairos*]; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor 6:2).



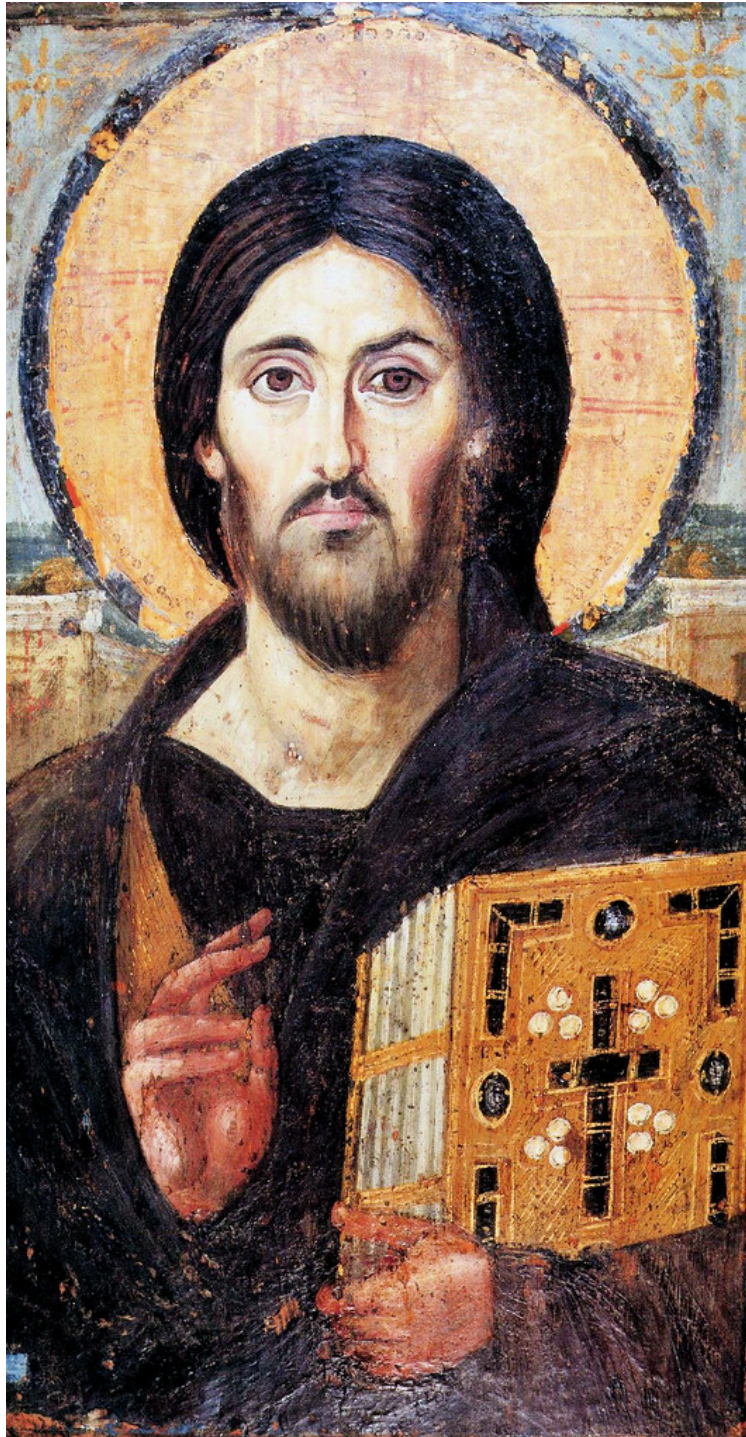
The Fullness of Time

- In the New Testament there are two words for time:
 - *Chronos* (the success of seconds, minutes, hours, years, decades, centuries, millennia, etc.)
 - *Kairos* (opportunity, occasion).
- Jesus calls us to “read the signs of the time” and to “interpret the present time.”
- With the coming of Jesus, *chronos* has changed into a *kairos*, and every moment is an opportunity to enter into eternity.



Practices to Manage Our Time Well

- The Catholic approach to time, therefore, has us focus on ways to live with God in time.
- Living time well is the greatest remedy against wasting our life and the best means to bear great fruit, to make sure our time is rooted in God (Mt 13:21), and that we are helped by him to bear fruit at the proper time (Mt 24:45)
- I'd like to focus briefly on seven:
 - The Practice of the Presence of God
 - Praying Always
 - Repentance and Faith
 - The Structure of the Week: Work & Sabbath
 - Converting seasons into thanksgiving
 - Liturgical Time
 - Preparing for the end of our life



The Practice of the Presence of God

- Since God has entered into time, we have the opportunity to live with him.
- “In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a Son (Heb 1:1), who is “the Word [who] became flesh and dwelled among us” (Jn 1:14)
- Time has taken on far greater meaning.
- The principle of the desert fathers of anamnesis, or “unforgetting.” The most important thing to remember is that God is with us always until the end of time.
- We must cultivate the practices necessary to remain aware of God’s presence: images, aspirations (short prayers), and then formal times of prayer that overflow into aspects of life.



Praying Always

- The most important practice to help us to keep the presence of God always is prayer.
- We prioritize in time entering into communion with the eternal God.
- “Jesus told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary” (Lk 18). This is a parable of perseverance in faith and in prayer, which is “faith and action.”
- This type of constant prayer is our vocation. St. Paul reminds us: “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess 5:16-18).
- “I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be ever in my mouth” (Ps 34:2)



Repentance and Faith

- “Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: ‘This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mk 1:14-15).
- The fullness of time is living with the King in his kingdom.
- We must a-vert, ad-vert and con-vert. This means more than a minor course correction or the elimination of sins, but a death and resurrection that leads to “newness of life” with Jesus.
- To live by faith means to live believing that God is with us always, that now is his “hour” and our “hour” with him, that the “time is running out” (1 Cor 7:29) and therefore repentance and faith is urgent.
- This is the essence of Christian morality, to turn with God in time toward eternity.



Work and Sabbath

- The Bible (Genesis 1) gave us the structure of a week, with six days of work and a day of rest. This introduced a structure to our time so that we could work and rest following the pattern of God who created us in his image.
- The work week helps us, first, to learn to work with God – a vocation given before the fall, in the commands to increase and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over all creatures. Then it helps us to reset by prioritizing the love of God and neighbor on a Sabbath day of rest with him.
- We've lost both the meaning of work and the meaning of rest, which shows we're lost in time.
- The Year of St. Joseph helps us to rediscover the Gospel of Work.
- It's also crucial for us to relearn how to live the Sabbath Day well, not as an "hour" of the Lord, but as a "day of the Lord."

Converting the Seasons

- In the Old Testament, God instructed the Israelites to convert the seasonal calendar into a liturgical calendar.
- “These, then, are the festivals of the Lord that you shall celebrate at their proper time with a sacred assembly...” (Lev 23:4)
- God made special feasts for planting, harvesting, crushing grains and grapes, etc., so that all of these regular occurrence might be lived with Thanksgiving, in communion with his providence.
- That principle of converting our day-to-day life into prayer is a perennial summons.





The Liturgical Year

- The Liturgical Season is meant to help us live time better.
- We see this in the various liturgical seasons:
 - Advent – in which we’re called to rehearse the vigilant hope of the Jews in anticipation of the Messiah’s first coming so that we may be ready for his second.
 - Lent – in which we live perpetual conversion to Jesus and united ourselves to his prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
 - The Sacred Triduum – in which we enter into his eternal actions that saved us.
 - Easter – in which we are helped to recognize that the Risen Lord Jesus is still very much with us calling us to newness of life.
 - Ordinary Time – in which we live, post-Pentecost, in accordance with the Holy Spirit and find God’s extraordinary intervention in ordinary life.
- Daily Mass – In which we’re given the opportunity to allow Christ’s ongoing incarnation on the altar, the fullness of time, to penetrate each day.
- Saints – in which, in celebrating their feasts, we learn to follow the way they used time so that we may, with them, spend eternity in communion with them with and within the loving communion of persons who is God.



The End of Our Life

- All of time is a preparation to enter eternity. We must be preparing for an encounter.
- If we “stay vigilant and alert” in preparation for the Lord’s coming, then we will not waste time.
- One of the most helpful reflections on how to do this comes from the classic *The Imitation of Christ* (23).
- “Very quickly will there be an end of you here; take heed therefore how it will be with you in another world. Today man is, and tomorrow he will be seen no more. ... O the dullness and hardness of man's heart, which thinks only of the present, and looks not forward to the future. You ought in every deed and thought so to order yourself, as if you were to die this day. If you had a good conscience you would not greatly fear death. It would be better for you to be vigilant against sin, than to fly from death.



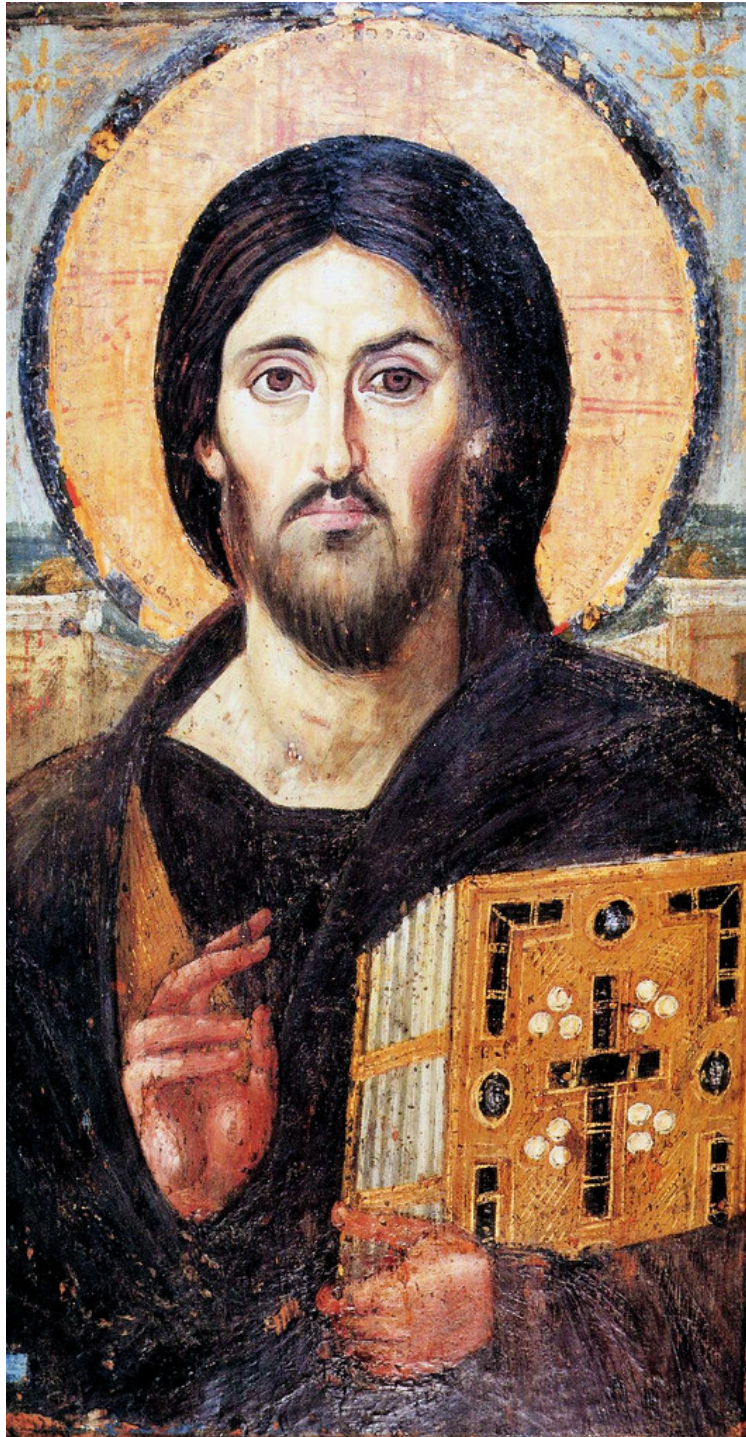
The End of Our Life

- “If today you are not ready, how shall you be ready tomorrow? Tomorrow is an uncertain day; and how do you know that you shall have a tomorrow? What does it profit one to live long, when we amend so little? A long life does not always amend, but often increases guilt more. ...
- “Happy is the man who has the hour of his death always before his eyes, and daily prepares himself to die. If you have ever seen one die, consider that you will also pass away by the same road. When it is morning, reflect that you shall not see the evening, and at eventide dare not to boast yourself of the morrow. Always be prepared, and so live that death may never find you unprepared. Many die suddenly and unexpectedly. For at such an hour as you think not, the Son of Man will come. ...



The End of Our Life

- “Happy and wise is he who now strives to be such in life as he would want to be found in death! For a perfect contempt of the world, a fervent desire to excel in virtue, the love of discipline, the painfulness of repentance, readiness to obey, denial of self, submission to any adversity for love of Christ: these are the things that shall give great confidence of a happy death. While you are in health you have many opportunities for good works; but when you are in sickness I know not how much you will be able to do. Few are made better by infirmity, like those who wander much abroad seldom become holy. ...
- “Do not put off the work of your salvation to the future, for men will forget you sooner than you think. It is better for you now to provide in time, and to send some good before you, than to trust to the help of others. If you are not anxious for yourself now, who, do you think will be anxious for you afterwards? Now the time is most precious. Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.



The End of Our Life

- “But alas! that you do not spend well this time, wherein you might lay up treasure that should profit you everlastingly. The hour will come when you shall desire one day, even, one hour, for amendment of life, and I know not whether you shall obtain. ... Strive now to live in such a way that at the hour of death may rather rejoice than fear. Learn now to die to the world, so shall you begin to live with Christ. Learn now to spurn all earthly things, and then you may freely go unto Christ. ...
- “Ah, foolish one! why do you think that you shall live long, when you are not sure of a single day? How many have been deceived, and suddenly have been snatched away from the body! How many times have you heard how one was slain by the sword, another was drowned, another fell from on high and broke his neck, another died at the table, another while at play! One died by fire, another by the sword, another by a pestilence, another by a robber. Thus death comes to all, and the life of men swiftly passes away like a shadow.



The End of Our Life

- “Who will remember you after your death? And who will pray for you? Work, work now, oh dearly beloved, do all the you can. For you know not when you shall die, nor what shall happen to you after death. While you have time, lay up for yourself undying riches. Think of nothing but your salvation; care only for the things of God. Make friends for yourself by venerating the saints of God and walking in their footsteps, so that when you die, you may be received into everlasting dwellings. Keep yourself a stranger and a pilgrim upon the earth, to whom the things of the world belong not. Keep your heart free and lifted up towards God, for here we have no lasting city. To Him direct your daily prayers with cries and tears, that your spirit may be found worthy to pass happily after death to its Lord. Amen.”



The End of Our Life

- Effective time management prepares for this encounter each day.
- Cardinal Justin Rigali, formerly Archbishop of Philadelphia, encouraged everyone to do so by living daily according to two Scripture passages:
 - “No one takes my life from me; I freely lay it down” (Jn 10:18); and
 - “Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit” (Lk 23:46).
- If we, like Jesus, never permit ourselves to be victimized by circumstances, but freely choose to unite whatever happens to us by entrusting ourselves the situation to God, when the time comes to meet the Lord at the end of our life, we will be ready and death will be the exclamation point on a life lived in receiving and giving with God.
- “My times are in your hands” (Ps 31:16).

FOREWORD BY MATTHEW KELLY

Plan of Life

HABITS
TO HELP
YOU GROW
CLOSER
TO GOD

ROGER J. LANDRY



For More

- If you'd like to receive further ideas on how to live effective "time management" as a Catholic, I'd encourage you to read my 2018 book entitled, *Plan of Life: Habits to Help You Grow Closer to God.*
- In it I describe various practices to help us to keep to keep the presence of God throughout the day and to stay firmly set in time on God's call to eternity, to happiness, holiness and heaven.
- It focuses on what to do at the beginning of the day, at the end of day, and at various points throughout the day, the week, the month and the year. It also focuses on various virtues that help us to persevere and grow in our Christian calling.



Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read,
Teach what you believe,
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts. You may also follow postings of articles, homilies and teachings on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

You can also subscribe to the podcast of daily homilies, lectures and talks through Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,
Fr. Roger J. Landry



Most Recent Homilies

God's Comfort and the Conversion Required to Receive It, Second Sunday of Advent (B), December 6, 2020

Accepting, Following and Announcing Jesus without Offense, Second Sunday of Advent (EF), December 6, 2020

Walking the Way of the Kingdom Jesus Indicates, First Saturday of Advent, December 5, 2020

Running to Meet Our Light, Strength and Salvation, First Friday of Advent, December 4, 2020

Listening to and Acting on the Long Awaited One's Words, First Thursday of Advent, December 3, 2020

Going Hungry to Meet Christ in a Three-Fold Banquet, First Wednesday of Advent, December 2, 2020

Childlike Eyes to See, First Tuesday of Advent, December 1, 2020

Singing the Song of the Lamb, 34th Wednesday (II), November 25, 2020

Turning to the Lord Who Comes to Judge the Earth, 34th Tuesday (II), November 24, 2020

Following the King and Lamb Wherever He Goes, 34th Monday (II), November 23, 2020

Most Recent Articles

Our Duty and Salvation, The Anchor, November 27, 2020

Living the Reality of the Kingdom of Christ, National Catholic Register, November 19, 2020

The Knights Our Age Needs, The Anchor, November 13, 2020

Remembering Andrew Walther, November 7, 2020

Just a Parish Priest, The Anchor, October 30, 2020

Coming to Know the Original Three-Dimensional Carlo Acutis, The Anchor, October 16, 2020

A Good Shepherd Full of Christian and Priestly Virtues, The Pilot, October 5, 2020

Returning to the Sacrament of Divine Love, The Anchor, September 18, 2020

The Pastoral Malpractice of Liturgical Abuse, The Anchor, September 4, 2020

The Chosen, The Anchor, August 21, 2020

Most Recent Talks

Receiving the Lord Jesus as Mary and Joseph, Advent Day of Recollection for the Leonine Forum, December 5, 2020

Novena in Preparation for the Immaculate Conception, Leonine Forum, November 28 to December 8, 2020

Blessed Michael McGivney and the Call to Holiness, McGivney Festival Young Adult Prayer Vigil, October 31, 2020

Apprenticeship in the Art of Living, Duc in Altum Virtual Schools Summit, October 28-30, 2020

Preaching on Marital Love and Accompanying Couples toward the Full Embrace of the Church's Teaching, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Divorced and Remarried, Challenges and Triumphs in Pastoral Care, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Heart of the New Evangelization: Meeting, Knowing and Loving Jesus Back, New Zealand Evangelion's in his Name Virtual Conference, October 10-11, 2020

Christian Anthropology: The Human Person in the Modern World, Leonine Forum Opening Lecture, October 8, 2020

Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, UNSRC Catholic Club, August 27, 2020

Making Better Confessions, Catholic Information Conference, July 24, 2020

For the Slides of this Talk

You may download a PDF of the PowerPoint sides of this talk and listen to the audio recording by going to:

www.catholicpreaching.com


and then clicking on the appropriate link under "Most Recent Talks"

Email: fatherlandry@catholicpreaching.com

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/FrRogerLandry

Twitter: [@FrRogerLandry](https://twitter.com/FrRogerLandry)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/roger.landry.524>



Making the Most
of the
Fullness of Time

Questions
and
Discussion

Fr. Roger J. Landry
UNSRC Catholic Club
November 4, 2021