Self-Absorbed Boomer

"[A] delightfully named blog", (Sewell Chan, *New York Times*). "[R]elentlessly eclectic", (Gary, Iowa City). Taxing your attention span since 2005.

Monday, March 16, 2020

Giving up church for Lent



I don't usually "give up" anything for Lent. I've had some clerical support for this. Lent isn't about renunciation, I've heard in homilies, but about reflection. I try to do that. Four years ago I **posted about** my reflections looking back on Lent from Easter Sunday.

Still, as well as being a time of reflection, Lent should be a time of liturgical devotion; of faithful attendance at services, participating in communal worship and prayers, and taking of the Eucharist. That's why I was saddened, although I recognize its necessity, by **the announcement** that the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island is suspending, effective yesterday (Saturday, March 14) "all public worship" until Thursday, March 26, at which time it will be decided whether to continue the suspension. Any continuation would certainly extend through Holy Week; a sad prospect indeed. No Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday, in which, four years ago, I had the "honor" of reading the part of **Pontius Pilate**. No Stations of the Cross - a new, High Church addition to our liturgy this year. Worst of all, no Rev. Allen Robinson, our Rector, proclaiming on Easter Sunday, "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" and our responding, "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"

So it was that I had a bit of a lie-in yesterday morning, knowing I was relieved of my duties of ushering and of being intercessor; that is. leading the Prayers of the People. But I missed the opportunity to join with my friends in worship, to greet our clergy - Allen, Erika, and Catherine - afterward, and to socialize at Coffee Hour (sometimes jokingly called the Eighth Sacrament of the Episcopal Church). **Update:** Grace Church clergy are doing Morning Prayer services that are live-streamed on the church's website.

Another thing I'll miss is the weekly in-person meeting of the Education for Ministry class, in which I'm in my second year. This is a class given by extension from the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, that is not for preparation to become clergy, but rather to educate lay Christians about scripture, church history and theology. Its intention is to prepare lay people for their ministry in daily life. We're looking for a way to continue meeting on line.

Follow by Email



Posts Comments

About Me

Claude Scales

I was born in 1946 in a city renowned in Vaudeville humor, Altoona Pennsylvania. My dad was in the military, so we moved many times in my childhood. We lived in rural England from the time I was five until eight, and I began my formal education in a county council school, where my being American is likely all that saved me from having my bottom caned. I graduated from the University of South Florida (1967) and Harvard Law School (1970). Since then, apart from two years' active Army duty, I have lived in New York City. In 1991 I married Martha Foley, an archivist. Our daughter, Elizabeth Cordelia Scales, was born in 1993 and lives in Philadelphia.

View my complete profile

Profile photo by:

Jay Lajoie

Social networking

My Facebook page

Also see me here:

Brooklyn Heights Blog

Popular Posts

Today I began reading one of our assigned texts: *Life Together* (1939) by **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**. For those unfamiliar with him, he was a Lutheran pastor and theologian, born in Breslau, Germany in 1906. His opposition to the Nazi regime led to his arrest in 1943 and execution by hanging in the Flossenburg concentration camp in April 1945, just two weeks before the camp was liberated by U.S. soldiers and a month before Germany's surrender. This gives a particular poignancy to the title of his best known work, *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937).

Life Together is a much shorter work than *The Cost of Discipleship*. Here is Bonhoeffer's preface:

> The subject matter I am presenting here is such that any further development can only take place through a common effort. We are not dealing with a concern of some private circles but with a mission entrusted to the church. Because of this, we are not searching for more or less haphazard individual solutions to a problem. This is, rather, a responsibility to be undertaken by the church as a whole. There is a hesitation evident in the way this task has been handled. Only recently has it been understood at all. But this hesitation must give way to the willingness of the church to assist in the work. The variety of new ecclesial forms of community makes it necessary to enlist the vigilant cooperation of every responsible party. The following remarks are intended to provide only one individual contribution toward answering the extensive guestions that have been raised thereby. As much as possible, may these comments help to clarify this experience and put it into practice.

Bonhoeffer's words convey a sense of urgency. They were written at the time when the Nazi regime was preparing Germany for war with its neighboring countries, and solidifying its racist doctrine that would lead to the Holocaust. He stressed the need for collective action.

The COVID-19 crisis may seem to be an impediment to our ability to act collectively, as it prevents us from physically gathering together. Technology that Bonhoeffer couldn't imagine lets us communicate in ways well beyond the printed word, radio, and telephone of his time. This technology has its well known downsides - it facilitates the propagation of falsehoods, enables on-line bullying, and lets us tune out all who disagree with us. Still, it does allow us to work together for the good, even if we must be physically separated. Let us do so, until this crisis has passed, as I fervently hope and pray it will soon.

Posted by Claude Scales at <u>1:05 AM</u>

Labels: COVID-19, Metaphysics and religion

4 COMMENTS:



steve on the slow train 9:18 AM



Judy Dyble and Fairport Convention

My last iPod Log included a YouTube clip

of the great English folk-rock band Fairport Convention , showing a film or videotape of the gro...



Mets First in NL East!

A squeaker to start a shortened season with silent stands. We'll see

how this goes.



The Bells of Hell

This is a slightly abridged and edited version of a piece I

posted on the Fray three years ago as a comment on an article in Slate about &...



Mets flounder, but the Gray Lady has interesting ideas for MLB.

A week ago Friday I posted here , noting, with tongue firmly in cheek, that the Mets were in first place in the National League East -- a di...



Cockney rhyming slang.

So, what's a Godiva? It's a five pound note, or, in

Cockney speech, a "five-ah," which rhymes with "Godiva." T...



Nick Tosches, 1949-2019

Nick Tosches died yesterday . I hadn't seen

train 0:18 AM

BeauSoleil at Richmond Folk
 Fest 2008

 Black 47, "Livin' in America"
 Bothy Band, "Old Hag You
 Have Killed Me", "Denny Delaney" and "Morrison's"

Buskin & Batteau, "A

Folksinger Earns Every Dime" Cannonball Adderley Sextet

with Yusuf Lateef, "Trouble in Mind"

Charlie Gracie, "I'm All Right"

Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown,
 "Dollar Got the Blues"

 Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown's jazz funeral

D.L. Menard, Marc Savoy, &
 L'Angelus, "The Back Door"

 Delbert McClinton, "Giving It Up For Your Love"

East Village Opera Company,"La Donna e Mobile"

Elaine Comparone & Queen's
 Chamber Band, Jose Bernardo's
 "Echoes From a Distant Land"

Ella Fitzgerald, "One Note
 Samba"

Eric Clapton & Mark Knopfler,
 "Sultans of Swing"

Fairport Convention with Judy Dyble & Vicki Clayton, "Si Tu Dois Partir"

Fairport Convention, "Now Be Thankful"

Great Big Sea & the Chieftains,
 "Lukey"

John Prine & John Burns,
 "Paradise"

 Jonathan Kane's February with Holly Anderson, Walt Whitman's
 "A Locomotive in Winter"

 Lucinda Williams, "World Without Tears"

 Mussorgsky/Ravel, "Great Gate of Kiev"

Pointer Sisters, "Cloudburst"

Sinead O'Connor & the

Chieftains, "The Foggy Dew"

Son Volt, "Catching On"

 Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, "Talk to Me"

Tim Krekel & Marshall

Chapman, "I Love Everybody"

Tom Rush, "Urge for Going"

Traffic, "John Barleycorn Must Die"

UB 40, "Red, Red Wine"

Uncle Tupelo, "Great Atomic Power"

Labels

- 1960s nostalgia (11)
- Academe (4)
- Anthropology (2)
- Appalachia (1)
- Archaeology (1)
- Architecture (55)
- Art (60)
- Artisinal y'all (1)
- **Astronomy** (31)
- Australia (1)
- Automobiles (17)
- Aviation (12)
- **Bad Puns** (1)
- **Bad Taste** (1)
- **Baseball** (225)
- Bells of Hell (10)
- Biology (1)
- Biotechnology (2)
- Blog-centric (58)
- Botany (8)
- Brazil (1)
- **Brooklyn** (171)
- **Brooklyn Bridge** (18)
- California (9)
- Celebrities (13)
- Chanukah (3)
- Charity (10)
- Chicago (8)
- Christmas (23)
- Clothing (6)
- College Basketball (3)
- College Football (68)
- **Comedy** (3)
- **Cosmology** (1)
- COVID-19 (1)
- Culture War (6)
- Cute Animals (24)

I'm in the same boat as you are, as Bishop Doug Sparks of the Diocese of Northern Indiana as done essentially the same thing. One advantage of being in the Catholic tradition is that Easter Day is just the beginning of the season. Assuming we'll be back in church by the Seventh Sunday of Easter (May 24), we'll still be hearing "Alleluia. Christ is risen," and respond,"The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia."

Reply



Unknown 4:55 PM

Can I hear an Amen?

Reply

Unknown 2:00 AM

Wow! this is Amazing! Do you know your hidden name meaning ? Scratch here to find your hidden name meaning ...

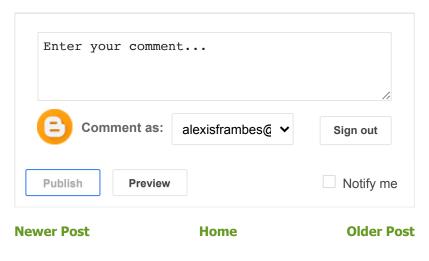




winniewinnie 4:07 AM

A very good and informative article indeed. It helps me a lot to enhance my knowledge. I really like the way the writer presented his views. I hope to see more informative and useful articles in future.

Reply



Subscribe to: Post Comments (Atom)

or been in communication with Nick for years, but there was a time, from the late 1970s to t...



Michael Simmons and Slewfoot, "The Teaser's Waltz"

"Dance with me, dance

with me, Devil...."



Robert Ward's The Stone Carrier; 1970s New York, Uptown and Downtown

Robert Ward's The Stone Carrier is a book that will grab you and not let you go. I read it because the author and I hung out at the s...



Alice Denham: *Playboy* Playmate, feminist, writer, and friend, 1933-2016.

I met Alice Denham some years ago at--where else?--the Lion's Head . I don't recall what animated our first conversation. Perhaps ...



A baseball diatribe, wherein, sadly, I will offend several friends.

I'm sick and tired of the 2008 Mets. And I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired. I wouldn't feel this way if they'd h...

My video jukebox.

- Amy Speace, "Double Wide Trailer"
- Amygdaloids with Lenny Kaye
- & Steve Wynn, "Brainstorm"
- B.B. King & Jeff Beck, "Key to the Highway"

- **Dance** (1)
- **Despair** (2)
- **Dixie** (1)
- **Earth Science** (4)
- Easter (2)
- **Economics** (16)
- **Environment** (15)
- **Evolution** (10)
- Fireworks (1)
- Fishing (1)
- Florida (34)
- **Food and Wine** (49)
- Fray (7)
- Friends (49)
- Funny Headlines (3)
- Furniture (1)
- Futility (5)
- Genealogy (2)
- Germany (1)
- Great Frozen North (15)
- Great Lakes (6)
- Greenwich Village (3)
- Guns (3)
- Halloween (3)
- Health Care (2)
- History (135)
- Hockey (2)
- Independence Day (1)
- iPod logs (12)
- Ireland (36)
- **Japan** (1)
- **Journalism** (4)
- **Katrina** (10)
- Labor Day (2)
- **Language** (25)
- 🔷 Law (25)
- Libraries (1)
- Lion's Head (40)
- Lionel Trains (5)
- **Literature** (54)
- Marine Biology (3)
- **Maritime** (105)
- Mathematics (1)
- Medicine (1)
- Metaphysics and religion (50)
- Mexico (1)
- Middle East (15)
- Movies (38)
- Music (430)

- Mythology (3)
- Nashville (3)
- Neural science (3)
- New England (35)
- New Jersey (5)
- New Orleans (3)
- New Year's Eve (1)
- new year's shout-outs (6)
- New York City (145)
- New York State (43)
- NFL Football (15)
- Nutmeg State (1)
- Ohio (1)
- **Old Blighty** (7)
- Opera (2)
- Ornithology (22)
- Other blogs (24)
- Paleontology (12)
- Pennsylvania (11)
- Philadelphia (1)
- Philosophy (25)
- Photography (140)
- Physics (7)
- **Plumbing** (1)
- Poetry (30)
- Politics (91)
- **Pop Culture** (71)
- Psychology (4)
- Puerto Rico (1)
- **Queens** (1)
- Railroads (30)
- Remembrances (5)
- **Russia** (5)
- Scotland (3)
- Self-Absorption (29)
- Shakespeare (2)
- Space exploration (5)
- Sports (1)
- Stupidity (6)
- Surreal Seventies (2)
- 🔷 **TBT** (55)
- Technology (2)
- Television (3)
- Texas (13)
- Thanksgiving (4)
- Theater (8)
- Travel (28)
- Virginia (1)
- Weather (5)

- **Welcome** (1)
- Wildlife (14)
- **Women** (2)
- **Xenophilia** (17)

Brooklyn Bugle colleagues

- Car on the Hill
- Heather Quinlan
- Ink Lake
- Mad Woman for Modern times
- The Smoking Nun

Other Brooklyn

- 423 Smith
- 66 Square Feet
- A Spoonful O' Isms
- ♦ Allez, Allie!
- Art in Brooklyn
- Backyard and Beyond
- Bad Advice
- Bay Ridge Blog
- Bay Ridge Journal
- Bed-Stuy Banana
- Bed-Stuy Blog
- Best View in Brooklyn
- **Big Sky Brooklyn**
- Blather from Brooklyn
- BococaLand
- Brit In Brooklyn
- Brooklyn Before Now
- **Brooklyn Born**
- Brooklyn Green Team
- Brooklyn Heights Association
- Brooklyn Heights Life
- Brooklyn Historic Railway

Ass'n

- Brooklyn Historical Society
 Blog
- Brooklyn Ink, The
- Brooklyn Rail, The
- Brooklyn Ramblings
- Brooklyn Ron
- **Brooklyn Skeptic**
- Brooklyn Streets, Carroll

Gardens

- Brooklyn Vegan
- Brooklyn Women's Exchange
- Brooklynometry
- BrooklynTrolleyBlogger

- Brownstone Poets
- Brownstoner
- Carroll Gardens Diary
- CityBeams
- Clinton Hill Blog
- Columbia Waterfront

Neighborhood Association

- Crazy Stable
- Creative Times
- Deep in the Heart of Brooklyn
- Oope on the Slope
- Dumbo NYC
- ♦ fade in, fade out...
- FIPS
- Flatbush Gardener
- Flatbush Pigeon
- For the Love of Brooklyn
- Found in Brooklyn
- Gowanus Lounge
- He Knew All the Words
- Lesterhead
- Local, The, Fort

Greene/Clinton Hill

- Luna Park Gazette
- McBrooklyn
- Midnight Cowgirls
- My Good Girl
- Newvine Growing
- Newyorkshitty
- No Shush Zone (Brooklyn

Public Library Blog)

- Not So Rough Guide, The
- Noticing New York
- Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn
- Pardon Me for Asking
- Park Slope Sketch
- Prospect: A Year in the Park
- Proteus Gowanus
- Rediscovering Brooklyn
- Rumproast
- Runs Brooklyn/Brooklyn Runs
- Sail Brooklyn
- ♦ Sheepshead Bites
- Shellytown
- Snoballs and Candy Corn
- ♦ Unemployment Cafe, The
- View from the Hook, A
- Views from Bay Ridge
- Walking Brooklyn

- Who Walk in Brooklyn
- Word on Columbia Street, The

Other Gotham

- Boogiedowner
- Bridge and Tunnel Club
- Broken Meter, The
- CitySpecific
- Curbed
- Daily Gotham
- EV Grieve
- Forgotten NY
- Garden Bytes from the Big

Apple

- 🔷 Gawker
- Gotham City Insider
- **Gotham Gazette**
- Gothamist
- Greater New York
- Jeremiah's Vanishing New

York

- Lost City
- NYC Bloggers
- **Overheard in New York**
- Room 8
- Tugster: a waterblog
- Virtual Dime Museum, The
- Washington Square Park

Fray friends and alumni

- Age of Reason
- Bell, The
- BTC News
- Clothes in Books
- Dread Pundit Bluto, the
- Grant Miller Media
- Growing Tomatoes From Seed
- 🔷 Instapundit 🛛
- Isonomist
- Keifus Writes!
- Man Bites Blog
- Maniraptora
- Notes from a Transitional

Fossil

- Odd Neighbor, The
- Over the Cliff, onto the Rocks
- Ted Burke, like it or not
- This Page Intentionally Left
 Blank

- Unreasonable Man, An
- When You Thought It Was
 Ouiet
- Who Is IOZ?
- Who Put Back the Clock?
- Woodshed, The
- **Wordflare**

Other friends, friendly foes, and fellow travelers

- Acephalous
- Barn, The
- Bloggingheads TV
- Brain Tracings (Saw This and

Thought of....)

- Chavezian Airspace
- Clay Shirky
- Crooked Timber
- Dan Patterson
- Oynamist
- Eduwonk
- 🔷 Frog
- Goat Rope, The
- Greg Watts
- Hit and Run
- 🔷 Hullabaloo
- Instaputz
- It's a Binary World 2.0
- James Wolcott
- John Cole's Balloon Juice
- Language Guy, The
- Larval Subjects
- Livin' The Dream (One Loser At

A Time)

- Loren Bliss: Outside Agitator's Notebook
- Mark Wadsworth
- Nick's Bytes
- Nurse Ratched's Place
- **Obsidian Wings**
- Oliver Willis
- Rough Theory
- Shadow of the Hegemon
- Steven Berlin Johnson
- Thoreau You Don't Know, The
- Tom Greenhalgh's Blog
- Tom Tomorrow

Sweet New England

- Forgotten Boston
- Boston 1775
- Scenes of Vermont
- Vermont's Northeast Kingdom
- Green in Vermont

Boomer blogs

- Boomer Chronicles, The
- Going Like Sixty

Legal eagles

- **Above the Law**
- Akhil Reed Amar
- Cass Sunstein
- Coffee House Talks
- Concurring Opinions
- Is That Legal?
- New York Personal Injury Law

Blog

- Overlawyered
- Richard B. at Large
- Sui Generis
- The Volokh Conspiracy

The not-so-dismal science

- Angry Bear
- Becker-Posner Blog
- Dani Rodrik's weblog
- Economist's View
- Free Exchange
- Grasping Reality with Both

Hands

- Greg Mankiw's Blog
- Marginal Revolution
- Paul Krugman

The God Squad

- Grace Church Brooklyn Heights
- Episcopal Life Online
- Anglican Communion News

Service

- Anglocat on the Prowl
- Episcopal Cafe
- Ideas (Rabbi Andy Bachman)
- Old First
- **God in a Shrinking Universe**
- God's Politics
- Religion Writer

Space is the place

- Astronomical Observations
- Astronomy Picture of the Day
- Bad Astronomy
- Cosmic Log

Terra Firma

- Visible Earth
- Google Maps Mania

Natural selections

- Adopt a Microbe
- Backyard and Beyond
- Dinosaurnews
- Or. Niles Eldredge -

Evolutionist

Maniraptora

Notes from a Transitional

- Fossil
- Pharyngula

Music sites and blogs

- American Roots Music
- **Bang on a Can**
- Be a Goddess Music
- Black 47
- Brooklyn Vegan
- **Byrds**
- **Eardrum NYC**
- Fairport Convention
- ♦ Gram Parsons
- Interchanging Idioms
- John Stewart memorial site
- **Judy Dyble**
- Marshall Chapman
- Now I've Heard Everything
- One Hit Wonder central
- Power Pop
- Sue Foley
- Today's Chicago Blues
- Vince Martin
- ♦ WQXR

Art and design

- Abstract Sunday I Lego NY
- (Christoph Niemann)
- Ami.UnderGround
- Art in Brooklyn

- **Barbara Cahn**
- Bo Bartlett

Counterpoint: a blog on the

- visual arts (Simon Dinnerstein)
- Day After, The (Chris Zenga)
- Face Out Books
- Fading Ad Blog (Frank H.

Jump)

- Flying Trilobite, The (Glendon Mellow)
- 🔷 John Tebeau
- Lone Beader, The
- 🔷 Marissa Alperin
- Mark Crawford Paintings
- Michael Sorgatz
- Paris Breakfasts (Carol Gillott)
- Park Slope Sketch
- Recession Art
- Serimony
- ♦ Tom Hart's Blog
- Urban Sketchers
- Virginia Harrison

Architects and architecture blogs

- ArchiBlog
- Architizer
- English Buildings
- **FASLANYC**
- Frank Lloyd Wright
- Henry Hobson Richardson
- Louis H. Sullivan
- Preservator

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

LLP

Veritas et Venustas

De gustibus

- All You Can Eat NYC
- Belle in the Big Apple
- Brew York, New York
- **Brooklyn Brewery**

Brooklynguy's Wine and Food

Blog

- David Lebovitz
- Dr. Vino's Wine Blog
- East Village Wine Geek
- Eater
- Heights Chateau

- Jacques Torres Chocolate
- Le Dom du Vin
- Lush Life
- Nat Decants
- New York Diner Divas
- NOLA Foodie
- Once Upon a Feast
- pacific standard blog
- Pour, The (Eric Asimov)
- So Many Wines...So Little Time
- TampaBayEats
- Veritas in Vino
- Vittles Vamp

Avast, mates!

- Famous Ocean Liners of History
- **gCaptain**
- Great Lakes St. Lawrence

Seaway System

- Herb's Lake Boats
- Sea History
- Tugboat Cornell
- Tugster: a Waterblog

Clear the tracks!

Brooklyn Historic Railway Ass'n

National Railway Historical
 Society

Railfan Network, The

All the news that fits

- New York Times
- New York Observer
- Washington Post
- Washington Monthly
- Boston Globe
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago Tribune
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- Houston Chronicle
- Los Angeles Times
- Miami Herald
- **Tampa Tribune**
- St. Petersburg Times
- The Daily Beast
- Huffington Post
- The Nation

- **The New Republic**
- Slate
- International Herald Tribune
- Globe and Mail
- The Economist
- The Guardian
- Le Monde Diplomatique

(English)

- Moscow Times
- ♦ Jerusalem Post
- Arab News
- Aljazeera (English)
- Times of India
- Shanghai Daily
- Japan Times
- The Australian
- Romenesko
- 🔷 FAIR

Sports

- New York Mets
- **Brooklyn Cyclones**
- **USF Bulls**
- Florida Gators
- Sports Blog Nation
- A Pudge is a Sandwich
- Faith and Fear in Flushing
- Mets Fan Fiction
- Surfing the Mets
- Subway Squawkers
- Those Mets

Blog Archive

- **2020** (6)
 - ▶ 07/26 08/02 (1)
 - ▶ 07/19 07/26 (1)
 - ▶ 05/17 05/24 (1)
 - ▼ 03/15 03/22 (2)

Andy Irvine and Donal Lunny, "My Heart's Tonight i...

Giving up church for Lent

- ▶ 01/19 01/26 (1)
- ▶ **2019** (15)
- ▶ **2018** (18)
- ► **2017** (24)

2016 (43)
2015 (107)
2014 (78)
2013 (96)
2012 (120)
2012 (120)
2011 (107)
2010 (99)
2009 (135)
2008 (170)
2007 (194)
2005 (53)