

Good Shepherd Sunday - May 12, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .



The Fourth Sunday of Easter is unofficially known as Good Shepherd Sunday because in all three cycles of readings the Good Shepherd is mentioned. My dog, Clancy is a Border Collie mix. Border Collies come from Ireland and are working dogs that have

been trained to herd sheep. Although Clancy is certainly domesticated and I have no idea if he has learned to herd sheep, occasionally he shows me what I believe is a herding instinct. At these times, he reminds me of the Good Shepherd.

I think Clancy's herding instincts come out when I run the vacuum sweeper. As soon as I turn it on, no matter where he is, even if he is sleeping, he runs. At first, I think he is afraid and that he is running away from something that may hurt him. But he never runs away or too far. He will run past me and then circles back and watches me attentively with his head turned slightly and his ears straight up at attention. When I change direction and come toward him, again he moves quickly past me and circles back once more to take a watchful and alert position.

It seems that he is on guard to protect me from something that may want to hurt me! When I'm finished vacuuming, I make a point to pet him, affirm him and thank him for his protection and concern for me from something that appears to him to be a dangerous undertaking. That's my boy!

In the Good Shepherd Gospels, we are told that a shepherd knows his sheep's voice and the sheep know his shepherd's voice. The sheep hear the shepherd's voice and they follow the shepherd. (This is true with Clancy and me, some of the time!) The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep and will guard the sheep from being snatched up by the wolf (or the vacuum sweeper). If the sheep are good or bad or lost or among the fold or of another fold, the Good Shepherd remains faithful to being good and offering protection and keeping guard and giving his life to all the sheep, no matter what.

The Good Shepherd image is a great one to describe the Resurrected Christ. In the Resurrected Christ we can easily see how the Lord lays down his life for all the sheep in order to take it up again. We clearly see how the lost are found and how the Good Shepherd is the gate that all the sheep pass through for eternal life. In this way, the Shepherd knows each and every one of us and each and every one of us knows the Risen Christ as our Good Shepherd. In this way, the Lord protects, guards, and saves all the sheep from the effects of sin and death. In this way, the Lord came that everyone may have life abundantly. Alleluia, Jesus Christ has risen indeed and his care for us never ends. Move and herd us together, O Good Shepherd, into life with God and each other with the very life that moved you to lay down your life so that others may live. Give us life with you that never ends and hold onto us tightly until you bring us safely home. "The Lord is our Shepherd, there is nothing more that we shall ever want." "Shepherd us, O Lord beyond our wants and fears, from death into life."

"The Lord uses the image of the shepherd who leaves his flock to go in search of one lost sheep to express God's closeness to sinners." "God does not want even a single person to be lost. "In his infinite mercy, he is always ready to meet us wherever we are."

--Pope Francis

Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry
Monthly Overhead Sponsor for May
Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Join us on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019 for the 16th Annual Hunger Walk and 5K Run!

JOIN OUR TEAM:

http://fsfb.convio.net/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=1410&team_id=11281

DONATE TO OUR TEAM:

http://fsfb.convio.net/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=1410&team_id=11281

SPONSOR A STUDENT: St. Leo's Youth Group would like to join the Hunger Walk, but some of our students can't afford the registration fee. Please consider a \$20 sponsorship to allow one of our Youth to participate. If you are willing, please send a \$20 check made out to: St. Leo the Great Church with the note: Youth Group Hunger Walk Sponsorship. Mail to: St. Leo the Great Church, 2573 St. Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Saturday, June 8, Eve of Pentecost, our Guatemalan community invites the entire parish to attend a prayer meeting. Translation devices will be provided.

Blessing of St. Leo's Stained Glass Windows

Sunday, June 9, after 10:30 am Mass A reception and light refreshments will follow in Centennial Hall.

Guatemalan Film Festival hosted at St. Leo's,

Friday, June 14: 1-4:00 pm, Workshops; 6-7:00 pm, Reception, Food by the bites; 7:00 pm, Voice of A Mountain, by Erik Nj Allen, film screening and special artist talk

Saturday, June 15: 12:00 pm, Cafe opens; 1-4:00 pm Workshops; 6:00 pm, 500 Years, film screening and discussion worksheet
Register at CincinnatiFilm.org, On sale date April 22nd. Exact time of workshops tba. For questions go to info@cincinnatifilmsociety.org

Looking for something worthy to do? Need a little excitement in your life? Looking for a new challenge? Do you have a spouse/partner/friend that you would like to share the job with? That's fine too! **St. Leo Food Pantry is seeking a VOLUNTEER assistant administrator**, 9-12 hours/week, Mon. Wed. and Fri. afternoons, to manage inventory control and onsite volunteer communications. Now that our procedures are well established and skillfully run, we need someone to help oversee and maintain operations. If you (and a teammate) are interested, please contact Stephanie Sepate, Pantry Administrator, at 513-921-1044 ext. 20

Married couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary (25, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75) in 2019 are invited to request a congratulatory certificate from Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr. Go to: www.catholiccincinnati.org, click Ministries & Offices, click Marriage & Family Life, or call 513-421-3131- ext. 2601 before June 21st to request your certificate.

Married Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2019 are invited to attend the following Golden Anniversary Mass: August 3, 2019, 4:30pm, St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, Bishop Joseph Binzer, Celebrant. Go to www.catholiccincinnati.org, click Ministries & Offices, click Marriage & Family Life, or call 513-421-3131 ext. 2601 before June 21th to register.

Happy Mother's Day!