

October 20, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .



World Mission Sunday – This weekend is World Mission Sunday. There is a special envelope in your box of envelopes for this collection and the second collection today will help support missionary activity throughout the world. The Church throughout the world needs our support. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati upon its founding in the 1800's needed the support of the greater church throughout the world and we, at St. Leo, especially understand the support and generosity of all of our brothers and sisters in Christ in order to do the Lord's work and carry-on the mission of Jesus Christ.

Through the work of lay people, religious sisters and brothers and priests, the World Mission Sunday Collection helps support, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith: schools; hospitals, health clinics; leprosy centers; social and pastoral projects. These funds also provide operating costs for Catholic Mission Dioceses around the world. In many ways, because of the diverse nature of our parish community, we stand in strong solidarity with missionary activity throughout the world. I strongly encourage your participation in this appeal. Thank you for your generosity. May God be blessed and praised. May the Gospel be preached and lived here, throughout the United States and the entire world.

Thank you, Sister Mary – Last week at our 10:30am Sunday Liturgy, Sr. Mary Dudley received the Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Award. Sister Dorothy Stang is a native of Dayton, Ohio and belongs to The Notre Dame Sisters, DeNamur. Sister Dorothy was a missionary in Brazil and fought for social justice for the farmers and was an advocate for the culture and the environment. She was outspoken in her efforts on behalf of the poor and the environment. On the morning of February 2, 2005, she went to a meeting to speak about the rights for the Amazon. She was stopped by soldiers who asked her if she had any weapons. She said, "The only weapon that I have is my Bible." She opened it and was reading the Beatitudes when the soldiers fired their weapons and killed her. Today, her spirit continues to inspire the poor and vulnerable of Brazil to fight for their own dignity and to safeguard God's creation. Sister Dorothy's life is an example for all of us of Christ's good news proclaimed in the 21st century.

Sister Mary Dudley is a Sister of the Divine Providence and has ministered to and served our immigrants and refugees here at St. Leo. She has fought for their rights and has volunteered her time to help them adjust and become acclimated to this country and to our culture without losing their own culture. She volunteers in our food pantry and often takes our parishioners back and forth for food. She gives them rides to and from church for Mass, meetings, doctor's appointments, etc. In the spirit of Sister Dorothy, Sr. Mary also is an example for all of us of Christ's good news proclaimed today.

Because of health reasons, Sr. Mary needs to cut back on many of her activities but occasionally she will still work in our food pantry. She is living at the mother house for the Sisters of the Divine Providence in Kentucky. She wants everyone to know that you can call her there just to talk anytime. She will always be praying for you and will continue to help you in any way she is able.

Thank you so much Sister Mary for dedicating your life and ministry to the Lord in the service of God's people and for loving us and caring for us with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. We will continue to follow the Lord by loving God and our neighbor as you so faithfully have taught us.