

August 25, 2019



From Fr. Jim . . .

Vocations: Some time ago, our Archbishop asked all the parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to pray for vocations and he wrote a prayer that he would like all of us to say regularly and often. The following is his prayer and I invite you to pray it as you are able and pray for an increase in priestly, religious and church vocations often and always. In my opinion, the shortage is not just with priests and religious but with all church vocations – just ask any business manager, youth minister or music director.

Almighty Father, you have created us for some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path you have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous, "Yes." Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts fruitful ground for your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to your call with courage and zeal. Stir within Your Church a strong desire and the strength for good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious and those called to a chaste single life, permanent deacons, faithful husbands and wives, who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church. We commend our prayer for vocations to You, Father, through the intercession of Mary our Mother, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

About the Gospel: Jesus says that the way to enter the kingdom of God is narrow. However, we can find diverse people there from every race, language and nation. The door is narrow because those who can enter do so by dying to themselves and handing over their lives so that others can live. Living the faith demands self-sacrifice. In order to enter the kingdom, we must be *from* the kingdom. Our words and actions must proclaim the kingdom as Jesus' words and actions proclaimed the kingdom. Our words and actions tell others that we are from the kingdom of God.

Can we be found among the poor, vulnerable, and lost? Can we offer hospitality and welcome to all that we meet? In these ways, we are from the kingdom of God and we enter through the narrow gate. Our words and actions together will never betray us. All people are welcomed not because of their lineage, race, gender, or ancestors, but because they have followed the narrow way of peace and love of Christ.

The next time someone asks, "Where are you from?" Let us be quick to respond in words and actions: the kingdom of God!

Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for August: Kind Anonymous Donor

Youth Program: Fall Schedule coming soon!

Van drivers URGENTLY NEEDED to transport parishioners to and from mass on Sunday mornings. Contact Angela at 921-1044 x 24 if you are willing to help.

Festival of Faiths After a wildly successful inaugural event in 2018, the Bridges of Faith Dialogue is hosting its 2nd Festival of Faiths, a beautiful gathering of dozens of faiths where people can come together to meet, learn and appreciate their neighbors. **Sunday, September 8, from 12:30-5:00pm** at the Cintas Center on Xavier's campus. It's free to attend and we encourage everyone to come and experience this fantastic event focused on interfaith understanding, respect and compassion. For more information, go to <https://www.cincifestivaloffaiths.org/>.

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish PICNIC

St. Leo Parish is invited to attend the Our Lady of the Visitation Picnic on **Friday September 13, 2019 from 5-10:00pm**, at Stricker's Grove, 114990 Hamilton-Cleves Rd., Rte. 128. Ride open at 6:00pm. Beer booth closes at 9:30pm. Bring a side dish or dessert. Hamburgers, hot dogs & beverages will be provided. For parishioners who need a ride, a bus will arrive at St. Leo's at 4:45pm, scheduled to leave St. Leo's at 5:00pm and return to St. Leo's at 9:00pm

Local statements on immigration and other critical issues of human life and dignity can be found at the "Where We Stand" page at www.catholiccincinnati.org. Additional positions on statewide matters can be found at www.ohiocathconf.org.

Go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/catholic-social-action/calendar-events/> to find the sample letters to our elected officials regarding the immigration crisis in our country and gun control legislation.