

February 6, 2022
From Fr. Jim. . .

Please consider this: There is a true story about former Prime Minister Menachem Begin's visit during the Carter administration. Seated in the Oval Office of the White House, Prime Minister Begin asked President Carter about the three telephones on the president's desk. President Carter responded: one goes to Plains Georgia, so I can keep track of my brother, Billy; one is a hot line to Moscow, which gives me instant communication with the Russians and one is a direct line to God!" "How much does that cost?" asked Begin. "Ten thousand dollars a month but it is worth every cent," replied the president.

Sometime later, Carter visited Israel and sat with Begin in his office. Seeing three telephones on his desk Carter asked, "Why do you have three phones?" "Well, one is a hot line to Cairo, Egypt, one is my direct line to Parliament, and one is my direct line to God!" Carter asked, "What does your direct line to God cost?" "Ten cents," Begin responded. "It's a local call!"

Would you consider your relationship with God a long distant one or a local one? Is God more of a higher power watching over you from a distance or very near to you, one with you and within your reach and grasp? When we pray, is our praying more like making a long distance call or talking to our neighbor from across the back yard fence?

We can't ever forget that our God is transcendent-always greater than ourselves and more than we can imagine, truly a God of heaven but our God is also incarnate – one with us in our very flesh, a God also of earth. God is as near to us as our very heartbeat and is as real to us as our love for our neighbor and as the Church is the Body of Christ, living its faith into action. Let us call upon the Lord always and often, especially while he is near.

"Every time we think of you, we will thank God for you." This is Sister Tracy's last Sunday with us. For the last year and a half, she has been Pastoral Associate for Adult Formation. Her focus was with peace and justice issues and concerns and catechetical formation for adults. She leaves this part-time position with us to continue full time vocation ministry for her order, The Sisters of Charity. Both positions are demanding and challenging, and it is difficult to invest completely in both. We thank her for her good work, joyful presence, deep faith, and love for the Lord and for us and all the people of God. Our time together has truly been blessed. We ask God to continue to bless and guide her in her work and ministry. Sr. Tracy, peace, blessings, prayers, love and gratitude are always in our hearts for you.

Dear parishioners,

As many of you heard at Mass last weekend, I am leaving my position at St. Leo in order to focus more on vocation ministry with my congregation, the Sisters of Charity. It has been a gift to serve alongside you as a Pastoral Associate, even for a short time. St. Leo is a truly special parish family, and I give thanks to God for all I have experienced with you learned from you. Please pray for me and know that I hold you in prayer!~~Sr. Tracy Kemme

POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! - The Holy Father is asking that as many of the baptized as possible participate in the archdiocese-wide meetings to be held in January and February 2022, to discuss how we can best collectively advance the message of salvation. **St.**

Boniface Church, 1750 Chase Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45223 is hosting one of these meetings especially for Spanish speakers on Saturday, February 12, from 10 am to 12 noon. The meeting will be in the school gym. Please park in the school parking lot. Samuel from the Archdiocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry will facilitate this local meeting of the Synod on Hispanic-based Synodality. **For more information and to register, visit www.catholicaoc.org/synod.**



2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) - This is Commitment Weekend for the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please join with Catholics in every parish throughout our archdiocese who are standing with local, Catholic ministries serving people right here in our communities. These ministries depend on our help each year!

You can **read the Sunday bulletin** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can **read Fr. Jim's letter** at:

www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim

We would love to receive gift cards to help with our everyday needs, please consider **Staples, Amazon, Kroger, or Home Depot** when donating. You can see our latest needs on our **Amazon Wish List Link** https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref=wl_share. **Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Social Action Office recognizes Catholic parishes and schools that live out Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* message of caring for God's creation. Our St. Leo Parish Social Action Team has decided to lead our parish in working toward this goal. The certification process aims to help us to become more aware of what we can do to promote recycling, and protection of our environment, Mother Earth, God's Creation.

The application process involves doing an assessment of our facilities and households as well as hosting educational opportunities to help us grow in our commitment. After Mass on Sunday, February 13, members of our Social Action Team will help parishioners complete the household survey. The parish staff will work on the facilities assessment and on having a *Laudato Si'* presentation later in the Spring.

We encourage each of you to do your part to help St. Leo become a *Laudato Si'* Parish. Our community effort is one small part in working to "restore Mother Earth to her original beauty according to God's plan" (*Pope Francis*)