

May 2, 2021

From Fr. Jim . . .

Life in Abundance: Comedian George Carlin had a comedy routine about “Stuff.” It is about all the things and possessions that we collect and hold onto so dearly. Here are some things he said about “stuff”: “The whole meaning of life is trying to find a place for our stuff. That’s what your house is – a place to put all of your stuff. Your house is just really a pile of stuff with a cover on it. It is a place to keep all of your stuff while you go out and get more stuff. You then have to buy a bigger house because you have run out of room for all your stuff, and you have to have more space for more stuff.” I wonder if we keep collecting stuff because we feel it is a way to have life and have it in abundance. There is danger in this kind of thinking because the stuff that we collect doesn’t last. It is temporary. It breaks and wears out. The life that things give us is only temporary. We can’t buy happiness and we can easily become possessed by our possessions.

Only God can give us life in abundance or fill us completely with life. Needless to say this is not about the acquisition of more stuff, possessions things, money, or gadgets. It is about receiving and sharing God’s unconditional love and living with the virtues of the Holy Spirit and building relationships on these eternal qualities. It is about living in deep relationship with the risen Lord and choosing to live with God’s grace, holiness, life and love. Jesus suffered, died and rose for all of us. Thus, he came so that we may have his life and have it in abundance. His love is everlasting and his mercy endures forever. “The risen Lord is our Shepherd; there is nothing more that we shall want. Only goodness and kindness will follow us all the days of our lives.” How good it is and how life-giving it is to be part of the flock of the risen Good Shepherd and to be alive with his new commandment of love!

The Flock continues to grow: Since Easter Sunday, we have had fourteen infant baptisms. Last week, there were twenty-one people who received either first communion and or confirmation or both sacraments. Congratulations everyone! May we all learn to practice and live the life of resurrection as abundantly and generously as we receive it.

This past Wednesday, April 21, I gathered with my brother priests of the Archdiocese for our annual convocation. During that day of reflection and prayer, we devoted part of our time to the issue of racism. We heard from Bishop Sheldon Fabre, chair of the U.S. Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, Archbishop Schnurr, two professors from the University of Dayton, and four of our fellow Catholics who shared about their experiences of racism in their lives. It was a powerful event which carried forth the message of ‘Open Wide Our Hearts: An Enduring Call to Love’, the 2018 pastoral letter on racism from the U.S. bishops. Our Archdiocese is actively engaged in confronting the sin of racism, and there is still much work to do. I ask that you pray for these efforts to continue to bear good fruit, and I encourage you to reach out to the Social Action Office of the Archdiocese if you are interested in learning more about these initiatives.

“Let’s not wait for our neighbors to be good before we are good to them, for others to respect us before we serve them. Let’s begin with ourselves.” ~ Pope Francis

Sunday Mass: 10:30am, limited seating available, or join Fr. Jim as he livestreams Sunday Mass at 10:30am at: RCC St. Leo Church Cincinnati
https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH_BOX



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

Our youth ministry group is looking to get Domino’s Pizza gift cards donated to help provide lunch for their summer activities. We also are in need of 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.

JOIN OR DONATE TO OUR TEAM ST. LEO PANTRY PARTNERS- Support St. Leo Food Pantry by supporting the 2021 Hunger Walk! The walk will be virtual this year on May 31st. Your support is VERY important! ALL money (even shirt money) designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account. To JOIN or DONATE to St. Leo’s Team go to <https://cincinnatihungerwalk.org/2021> Then Click on JOIN TEAM, SCROLL to find St. LEO PANTRY PARTNERS, CLICK on it. From here you can JOIN OUR TEAM or DONATE. If you need help please call Amy at 921.1044.

[We are looking for volunteers to help plant vegetable seeds in the community garden on Saturday May 15th at 8: 30 a.m. to join please email Judie at \[judiekuhlman@gmail.com\]\(mailto:judiekuhlman@gmail.com\) or text Rodrigo Juarez at 513.284.2391.](#)