

May 8, 2022

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. Once, I had a Border Collie dog whose name was Clancy. Border Collies come from Ireland and are working dogs that have been trained to herd sheep. Although Clancy was certainly domesticated and I have no idea if he had learned to herd sheep, occasionally he showed me what I believe is a herding instinct. At those times, he reminded me of the Good Shepherd.

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

It seemed that he was on guard to protect me from something that may want to hurt me! He was my defender and protector.

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 was 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."

"In this month dedicated to the Virgin Mary, let us learn from her that prayer is the best weapon of Christian life; without persistent prayer no victory over evil is possible."~~ Pope Francis

GARDEN RENOVATION UPDATE

– We are welcoming native plants if anyone has some to divide or donate, as well as shrubs for along the back fence. We are looking for volunteers to help plant flowers, clean, re-structure as well as maintain the area. If this is something that interest you please send an email to akleemanstleo@aol.com



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

Please continue your generous almsgiving but donating, you can see our latest request on our Amazon Wish List Link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_share. **We also have a request for an electric stove. Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**

SUMMER VOLUNTEER- St. Leo's Parish office is looking for a volunteer 1-2 day(s) during the months of May- August to help answer the phones and do light office duties. The time is 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the day(s) agreed upon. If you are interested please call 513.921.1044 or email stleocinti@aol.com.

Let's Celebrate!! Join us for Father Jim's Life of Service retirement mass and party. On Sunday June 12th help us celebrate at 11:00 a.m. mass at St. Boniface (no mass at St. Leo that Sunday) and a reception immediately following in the school gym and cafeteria with light bites, and drinks. If you wish to share a picture or special memory to highlight Fr. Jim's significance in your life, please send your photo or letter to the address below to be presented to Fr. Jim at his reception to 2573 St. Leo Place Cincinnati OH 45225 or email akleemanstleo@aol.com

JOIN US!!! HUNGER WALK 2022-Make sure to mark your calendars for Monday May 30th and Join our team St. Leo's Lighting the Way for the 2022 Annual Hunger Walk! To join our team or to donate go to <https://cincinnatihungerwalk.org/2022> and look for the donate or join team button and pick St. Leo's Lighting the Way for us to get the credit. **There are also registration forms in the back of church.**

Treasure Chest Update- With the changes that are occurring with the retirement of Father Jim and the combining of parishes we have decided to discontinue the Treasure Chest effective immediately. We want to thank Marianne Brater for her years of service and dedication to this project. We will be introducing a new fundraising effort called "4Grand", look for this announcement around August. If you have questions or concerns about this please call the office at 513.921.1044.