

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .

Dearest Friends,

I am ordained forty-three years and appreciative for that many years of wonderful priestly ministry for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Also, in November of this year, I will celebrate seventy years of life. July 1<sup>st</sup> I would be pastor of St. Leo for 15 years. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, I am retiring but I will be available for weekend help especially for our family of parishes formed by the Beacons of Light process. I will preside at the 10:30am Sunday liturgy at St. Leo and the 4pm Saturday Liturgy at St. Boniface at least for the next fiscal

year and until our new parish family receives its full complement of priestly help and any way that I can be of assistance until the new parish plan is developed and actively in place. For me personally, I know it is time to retire from parish leadership and I look forward to helping as needed with sacraments and ministry on a more leisurely schedule.

Father Rodolfo Coaquira, MCCJ will be the pastor and he will have two parochial vicars (associate pastors) to assist him. All three priests are Comboni Missionaries. They speak English and Spanish and some African dialects. Their love for the Lord and God's people is obvious in their thirst for social justice and peace, their promotion of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and their hospitality to the immigrant and refugee.

I want to thank you for befriending us and for your most generous support of our work and ministry. We have been partners in grace and together the Lord has made his presence known and felt with your prayers and with sharing your time, talent, and treasure. With your help, the kingdom of God is alive and well in North Fairmount! Eucharist is being celebrated and lived, the Gospel is being preached, children and adults are being baptized and/or completing their initiation into the church, people are fed, clothed, welcomed, the lowly are raised, the youth are formed and instructed in the faith and invited to join ministry and service activities. Our saving God is praised and worshipped by all.

"We don't know what our future holds, but we know who holds our future." God still has plenty of

work for us to do. It has been a privilege and an immense blessing to share this ministry with you. Humbly, I ask you to continue journeying with St. Leo and our family of parishes



with your prayers and support and in whatever ways the Lord calls you to follow him with the work we do in his name. Thanks for being God's church with us. Let's keep each other in prayer.

In the week before the Feast of Pentecost, the readings spoke of Jesus praying for the same unity and love that he shared with his Father for his disciples. He did this before he died and before he ascended. He knew it was his time to leave. He also knew it was time to hand over his mission to the apostles. He knew they could do it with God's love and the Spirit's guidance. It was his purpose to encourage them and to keep praying for them. Know that I carry you in my heart, in my prayers, and my ongoing love for St. Leo and our new

family of parishes: St. Leo, St. Boniface, St. Joseph, Holy Family, St Theresa of the Little Flower! Let's continue forth glorifying the Lord with our lives!

Blessings, prayers, and gratitude, always!

Fr. Jim

