

September 12, 2021

From Fr. Jim . . .

September Eleventh: On September 11, 2001, there was a terrorist attack on the United States of America that involved the bombing and collapsing of the Twin Towers in New York City. It was twenty years ago that this most tragic event happened.

This was such a tragic happening for our country that I am certain most of us remember exactly what we were doing on that day when the airliners were used as bombs to strike terror into the heart of our nation. I was pastor at Corpus Christi, in Dayton. I had just finished morning mass and I was at the dining room table reading the morning paper and listening to The Today Show when the sad news was being reported. On television, I saw the second plane strike the Twin Towers. It was live reporting, not a replay. I called an impromptu staff meeting with whoever was present at the time to discuss how we should share the news with our school children and teachers. We asked them to all gather in church for a spontaneous prayer service and we began the important process of praying our country and all the victims and their families through the hurt and pain. 20 years later, the important task of the Church of God is to keep praying everyone through the hurt and pain and to be thankful for the healing that has occurred.

Soon after the tragedy of September 11, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral statement offering words of consolation, criteria for moral discernment, and a call to action and solidarity. In it, they identified what would be required to effectively confront terrorism in the future: "We need to nurture among ourselves faith and hope to strengthen our spirits by placing our trust in God, rather than ourselves; courage and compassion that move us to action; humility and kindness so that we can put the needs and interests of others ahead of our own; patience and perseverance to endure the long struggle for justice; civility and charity so that we can treat others with respect and love." In hindsight, are these not the virtues that have promoted healing so far and are they not the virtues to continue to promote the healing and peace that are still needed?

Twenty years later, it is still the task of the church to keep praying everyone through the hurt and pain, especially since the threat of terrorism and hatred for others is so imminent in many countries of the world, today. It is still the task of the church to conquer evil and hatred with love, mercy, forgiveness and grace. It is the task of the church to show civility and charity and to restore life with dignity and respect. It is the task of the church to find the lost and put the needs and interests of others before its own. All Christians are called to this positive action as hope for a fallen world. Resurrection and new life always get the final word.

We continue to pray for those who fight for our freedom and for the lives lost in the attacks of September 11 and their families and for our enemies.



We invite you to join our new parish Social Action Team! If you want to work together to educate, advocate, and pray for justice, this group is for you. There will be many ways to get involved, and the time commitment is flexible. Please contact Sr. Tracy at srtracystleo@gmail.com if you're at all interested.

SAVE THE DATE- The 41st Annual Pete Bushelman "Friends of CISE" Raffle will be held virtually on December 17, 2021. Proceeds provide tuition aid to low-income students attending ten Catholic inner-city, elementary schools in Cincinnati. For more information or to purchase tickets contact the CISE office at 513.263.3472.

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

We are looking for one table that can fit 8 chairs each. The Food Pantry is looking for rolling luggage if you have any to donate!

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.**

COMMENT ON DRAFT "FAMILIES OF PARISHES" – Make sure your voice is heard! Beacons of Light, the archdiocese-wide pastoral planning process currently underway, will result in all parishes being grouped into "Families" under the leadership of one pastor. A draft of this plan will be shared for public comment October 1-20 at www.BeaconsAOC.org. Do not miss this opportunity to provide your input to this important initiative which will shape the future of our archdiocese.

JOIN our Partner Parish!! On September 17th join Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Picnic at Stricker's Grove, located at 11490 Hamilton Cleves Road, Hamilton, OH 45013. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Food will be served from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Rides are open from 6:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. This year there will be **NO BUS** transportation, however if you need a ride please call the parish office 513.921.1044 for arrangements.