

# St. Leo The Great Parish Newsletter

## JUNE, 2015 NEWSLETTER



Photo by  
Father Jim Schutte

**FRIENDLY TIES,  
FAMILY TIES**

*"I LOVE that picture!" ... "Awww How Cute!" ... "It really touches the heart!"*

Moments like this were made to be captured. In this split second of playfulness, the children gathered around to say "hello" to Clancy. Oh that life would be this friendly and easy-going. A life where there are no barriers. No pretense. No complexities.

The Ma Bell 1979 "Reach out and touch someone" ad really hit the nail on the head. Whether aurally, physically, or mentally, go ahead—reach out and touch someone. Strangers, neighbors, family members. Do you see your hand reaching out freely and openly like the hands in this picture? What if you were captured in a moment on someone's camera? What expressions would be said about the moment captured?

Picture that... Pictures really do say a thousand words!

- Stephanie Sepate



## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I have been enjoying very much the melodious, joyful and spirited sounds of our women's choir who sing in the language of Kirundi which is the language spoken by our parishioners who are from Burundi, Africa.

Each Sunday, they sing a couple of songs during our Liturgy. Although I do not understand any of the words that they are singing, I always get the message that they are singing about Easter and the joy of new and risen life. Their songs are upbeat and invite our participation by clapping and humming. I experience the risen Lord in our midst, especially when they are singing and when we all try to participate in praising God with them. It is as if the risen Lord is in our midst sharing the joy of knowing him and loving him and inviting us to live freely as children of God. We are one as we set our sight on the spiritual gifts and claim our common heavenly citizenship. It is clear, in this way, that "the family who prays together will stay together."

Often, our praying leads us back to our homes or to the undercroft of church to continue our celebration socially with good food, discussion, games and fun. No doubt, this happened for most of you on Mother's Day and will happen again on Father's day and recently this happened for our Parish on the Feast of Pentecost. Do you think that the family that can also play together will stay together? I think so. Good playing, having fun together, laughing with each other, enjoying life and taking time to share your joys and enjoying God's creation and each other's company can restore and renew relationships. It strengthens the bonds of love and friendship. It is so necessary for our growth.

At St. Leo, the children and my dog, Clancy, witness to this all the time. (See picture on the front cover.) At our last Parish Council meeting, one of our members brings her husband and their twins who are not quite two years old. The father babysits while the mother attends the meeting. Clancy, not always



voluntarily, provides entertainment for the twins. At one point during the meeting, Clancy pushes the door open with his head and comes into the room and promptly takes his place under the table while the twins, one behind the other, are chasing him. They are smiling from ear to ear and their hands are outstretched toward Clancy and their fingers are moving in a pinching motion trying to catch Clancy. All of us broke out into laughter. This was not a distraction but rather it was a refreshing moment. We assured Clancy that he would be fine and we all looked at each other and said, "Welcome to St. Leo" and we went right back to our agenda.

Then there was the girl who rushed up the center aisle during the Sign of Peace and instead of coming into the sanctuary and shaking my hand, she stopped at the steps, made sure that I was looking at her and she took a pink paper heart that she had made during the Children's Liturgy of the Word and moved it from her chest with her arms outstretched toward me as if she was giving me her heart. With a big smile, she joyfully skipped away.

This was the fun and natural way for her to give the sign of peace that day.

Last month, our parish staff took what we called a "play day" and went to the Reds Game. I consider this an important part of staff development. We also had fun trying to teach Obed the game of professional baseball. Obed is from Burundi, Africa. This was his first baseball game. I remember that a very important part of my growth and development, as a child, was playing baseball with my dad and that "one on one time" when he took me to the ball field and hit fly balls to me. And I will never forget the Saturday night card games with their adult friends when we learned how to play "Crazy Eights" and "Liars Dice." Yes, the family that prays and plays together will stay together.

As summer approaches, may you find time to rest, take vacation and make time for re-creation. Laugh and live joyfully, freely and happily as children of God.

- Father Jim

## ST. LEO PARISH & COMMUNITY SCHEDULES & CONTACT INFORMATION

E-MAIL: stleocinti@aol.com WEBSITE: www.saint-leo.org FACEBOOK: St. Leo The Great Catholic Church  
PHONE: 513-921-1044 FAX: 513-921-8048 PARISH NURSE - 513-862-4398

WORSHIP SCHEDULE - Saturday 6pm Mass in Spanish; Sunday Mass: 10:30am; Weekday Mass: Thursday 7pm  
FOOD PANTRY - rectory basement

When Food Pantry is open, the hours are: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1pm to 4pm (see p.3 for coverage area & requirements)

### COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

North Fairmount Community Center/Referral Services-Lois Broerman: 513-921-5842  
HOUSING: 513-921-5889

Healthy Moms & Babes - 513-591-5600 — Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic:513-541-4500  
GED Referral: Roll Hill-513-591-2692 — Literary Network-513-621-7323

~ Newsletter content and articles are written and/or compiled by the editor unless otherwise noted. ~



## PANTRY PRESS

In April, our Food Pantry served 1,170 people (includes 621 children) in 298 families.

### HUNGER WALK

Thanks to all of our supporters and walkers! As of publication, over \$8,000 has been raised to purchase food at the Freestore/Foodbank. With Shirley's (Food Pantry Director) eye for the best price on product and proteins, it should carry us for almost a whole year —until the next Hunger Walk!

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

*Flowers? Why flowers?*



flowers would be tossed—and not even composted—Shirley saved them, bringing lingering smiles to many of our pantry clients.



A. Tell me. Who doesn't love fresh flowers? With the exception of those with allergies (sorry), bringing nature indoors has been proven to improve a person's health and well-being—another aspect of our Food Pantry's ministry. When it was discovered that the

**NEEDS FOR JUNE: Peanut Butter (as always),** canned potatoes, tomatoes, & peas, canned meats, pork 7 Beans, toilet tissue, bar soap, toothpaste, diapers (3,4,5), and laundry detergent. Monetary donations are needed for additional food & hygiene purchases, and operational expenses to keep the pantry functioning, including such items as: freezers, refrigerators, pest control, van use, repairs, gasoline for multiple trips for food pick-up, and Pantry related errands. Monetary donations are never used for the general parish operating expenses, staff, or pantry management expenses.

**PANTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Serving only those in North Fairmount area including English Woods, East Westwood, Roll Hill Apts & Millvale, only once every 30 days (only small part of 45225). Current proof of residence (Duke or telephone bill), photo ID & Social Security Cards for all members of household must be presented at every visit to the Food Pantry to determine eligibility using Federal guidelines. -S. Sepate



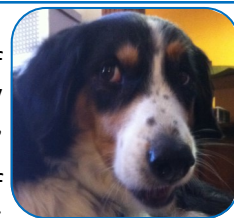
## CLANCY'S CACKLES

Knock, knock! Who's there?  
Clancy. Clancy Who? Gimme some eyeglasses - I Clancy anything!!

1. What does the sun drink from?
2. What did the pig say on the beach?
3. How does a trombone reach second base?
4. Why was the spider one of the MVPs of the baseball game?
5. What birds play music at the beach?
6. Why don't insects drink coffee? *(answers on page 6)*

## CLANCY'S CLICHES

There is blood family, there is the staff family, and there is extended family beyond—going through the same growth, ups and downs and, well, LIFE!



The last 12 months have been ruff riding for many, starting with my master's blood scare, death of parents, in-laws, dear friends, and loving pets. May we all feel the bond as one huge family in our sharing of joys, sorrows, hardships and celebrations with care, concern, and loving-kindness for one another.

And now, some Poochie Pointers to keep us moving forward and be good siblings to our fellow litter-mates!

### POOCHIE POINTERS FOR JUNE

🐾 Savor your treats – notice the smell, the texture, and be mindful in the moment, especially at events, programs or meals that last a long time. Make every itty-bitty action and gesture be a “ceremony” of gratitude and joy.

🐾 Let your bark be heard - listen actively and speak up before the opportunity is gone. Everyone's action and voice are important. Grab your opportunity when it knocks.

🐾 Admit how you feel and move on—plain and simple.

🐾 Fake joy – if you make yourself believe you're happy you will be. How to get to that space? Get out in the yard and walk around. Do something energetic like jumping up and down. Smile!

🐾 Praise yourself – if you put yourself down, you close doors and permit yourself to act that way. Give yourself credit and the investment will grow. Do it day after day and it becomes part of your life. It becomes you; you become it.

🐾 Stop being the ideal – give yourself a break. Admit it. We're not *always* perfect so don't beat yourself up trying to write the right word or sentence. And don't just *not* do it, either!

🐾 Start talking out loud to yourself – talking through a situation really does help. And no one will argue with you!

🐾 Weed your life – like a garden, yank out those “weeds” in your life that are bringing you down – activities, thoughts, feelings—and enjoy the beautiful flowers – your positive thoughts, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, as the King of Siam would say.

🐾 Let your heart break – don't turn away when you see situations that would otherwise paralyze you. Look at them head on with understanding and compassion, even if there is nothing at all you can do in a particular situation. This will help you help yourself with conviction to do something in your life – anything – aiding those other situations where you have control and *can* help.

🐾 Know when to listen and when to zone out – quiet your mind, get away from folks telling you what to do. Take a nap, meditate, stare at a lava lamp. Listen to your breathing and to your own voice inside.

🐾 Carry love in your heart and let it shine—we are all little flames of a huge light of love. Now, don't be lazy!

**Howlin' is hootn';**

**Growlin's not gooten! -Clancy**



*Lookie, here! A Mini-me! Is it a lion? We nap the same way with our paws. Must be family...could this be my long-lost brother, Jake?*



## TREASURE CHEST FUNDRAISER



**Congratulations** to the Treasure Chest winners for April: RuthAnn Muenich, M.Welsh, Dane Hill, Thelma Herbert and Sherry Baker.  
-Marianne Brater, Chairperson



### CUCKOO for CASH?

"He was but as the cuckoo in June" according to Shakespeare. Why not join the corps of cuckoos in June for a Treasure Chest ticket? We go crazy in a happy way when requests come in for

graduation gifts, wedding gift stuffers and, to mix things up, sticking a ticket in that tie for Dad on Fathers Day! See, we are a little insane this month, jumping up and down like cuckoos. So go nuts with extra Treasure Chest tickets. Shakespeare would've enjoyed it too!

**This is one of our major parish fundraisers!**

**Ticket donation: \$5**

**Support is always needed!**

- Stephanie Sepate

### Jumpin' JUNE-ipers!

***If you enjoy the newsletter and would like to be added (or anyone else you know) to the newsletter mailing list, please call the parish office at 513-921-1044.***



### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS

is held every Saturday at St. Leo, 10am-noon. All are welcome to attend. Call for information.



### ST. LEO ONLINE ☺ ☺ ☺

[www.Saint-Leo.org](http://www.Saint-Leo.org)

### Enjoy the online edition with color photos!

Save the site in your "favorites" list to visit often. Feel free to send corrections, updates, news and/or information to be included on the website to Casey Betz, Development Director, at [cbetzstleo@aol.com](mailto:cbetzstleo@aol.com)



### St. Leo's Facebook Page

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

### St. Leo's YouTube Channel

StLeoTheGreatParish



### Online Giving

<https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=995>

### Matching Gift Programs

See our website at [www.Saint-Leo.org/DonateNow.aspx](http://www.Saint-Leo.org/DonateNow.aspx)

## SUMMER CAMP—a la' St. Leo

Memorial Day Weekend. Summer projects. Time to clean out the tool sheds, edge the lawns, paint the handrails, and the never-ending list of To-Do's.

We are so very fortunate to host several organizations, schools, and camps throughout the summer as they embark on their Mission Trips—to the community of St. Leo.

At the end of this month, Catholic HeartWorks Camp will visit and make repairs/improvements on the St. Leo campus as well as at homes of some of our refugees and immigrants. This, especially, is where the Home Depot and Lowe's Gift cards come in handy (see List). Materials must be furnished for projects that include screen door frame repairs, fixing screens with holes, scraping and painting, fan repair, concrete work, sourcing and addressing plumbing leaks, porch roof patching, and a list as long as the tax code. Thank you and welcome to all our summer visitors!

No more shuffling books and sheet music! With monetary donations coming in for general "Wish List" items, the Music Stands were purchased and immediately put to use. Funds were also sent to purchase the ladder that was on the List—we're climbing high, now! Thank you!



On the horizon is a major aspiration: an up-to-date Sound System. If you've been to a St. Leo Mass, you will totally understand the need. Our mixer is as old as the world wide web (1989)! A talented and techno parishioner has been able to provide expansion to the old set-up but, like that bathing suit that used to fit, we've outgrown the current system. The cost (hold on...) approximately \$16,000—give or take a few thousand. If anyone is aware of grant or funding opportunities, please, please let us know!

### PARISH WISH LIST

- >Lowe's, Home Depot, Hobby Lobby, etc. gift cards for projects
- >Composter for our Urban Garden (\$100-150)
- >More lap-size wipe-boards (ESL classes are increasing!)
- >Erasers for DryErase Boards (if you have extra, or \$2)
- >Table Saw-portable\* (\$350-425) -Stephanie Sepate

### "DROP AND ROLL"

The great quote for fires, falling from tall buildings, and sky-diving landings.

For St. Leo, a reminder to please DROP what you're doing and re-enROLL if you haven't yet done so. We have been able to supplement projects and outreach programs with the donations from Kroger from the percentage of your purchases! Thank you! Your involvement is very much appreciated!



**Re-Enroll or Become a member online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) with your Kroger Plus card.** Select St. Leo from the list or enter our ID#**28680** and click confirm. You still benefit from the coupons and special deals provided through the Kroger Plus card.

**iGive:** Shop the sites you love and support St. Leo! Sounds easy? It is! Sign up at <http://www.igive.com/>

**SmileAmazon:** You shop—Amazon gives! If you sign up for their Smile Program listing us, they'll donate .5% of your purchases to St. Leo! Just sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556>

Check our website for more detailed instructions on how to register in any of the above programs—then Shop, Give and Smile! - S.Sepate

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—First Cole, then Mom, now Grandpa!**

Getting involved with St. Leo's has become somewhat of a tradition for one family from our covenant partner parish Our Lady of Visitation. When Cole Miller was a student at Elder high school his community service project led him to St. Leo's where he connected with Alex Nigiziyimana and his family, parishioners who are refugees from Burundi. A deep friendship developed between the two families.

As Cole's mom, Kerry McCarthy Finley, got to know more of the Burundian community she learned that many of the children needed help with homework. She began talking with teacher friends and started the Tuesday evening homework and tutoring group that provides one-on-one help from 6:30 to 8 pm each week during the school year. It's been a satisfying experience for all involved and some of the tutors have become friends and advocates for the students with whom they work, seeing they get individualized education plans (IEPs) and proper school placement when needed.

Seeing the impact volunteering has had with his daughter and grandson, Larry McCarthy has become a volunteer for the food pantry picking up surplus food products from Rempke's once a week.

Many volunteers tell similar stories of one person getting involved and family and friends joining in.

Like many people have said. St. Leo's is like fine chocolate—one you get a taste, you want more and more.

—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate

## **UPDATES AND PHOTOS**

### ***FRONT PAGE NEWS!***

A feature article including St. Leo was on the front page of the City Beat newspaper last month. It is posted on our Facebook page and on our website (see page 4). Be sure to check out the video embedded in the article about half way down.

### ***IN CONCERT***

"Celebrate! The Spirit Is Alive!" took place May 22nd at Our Lady of the Visitation Church featuring "Creation Worship Ministry" (the Guatemalan praise band from St. Leo's) and Bill Tonnis and his band (from Our Lady of the Visitation). The concert was a jubilant praise with the universal language of music!

### ***FIVE FIRST COMMUNIONS***

On May 24th, we welcomed the following to the table of the Lord: Lowi Irakoze, Aimable Niyongabo, Adela Irumva, Josiane Ndayishimiye, and LaNiece Peppers.

### ***VISITING?***

If you come to Mass on a last Sunday of the month, you'll be able to join us for "Name Tag Sunday". Coffee and treats will be available after Mass in the undercroft of the church.

### ***LATINOFEST***

July 11th! More information to come in the July Newsletter and on the website!



## HOW TO DEAL WITH THE THORNS IN YOUR LIFE

Is there someone in your life that consistently gets on your last nerve? Someone you find yourself inwardly cringing at the thought of even being around? Someone who's loud and obnoxious and seems to know everything about everything and isn't open to correction? Someone you can't trust and who has disappointed or betrayed you in the past? Someone who, in general, is a thorn in your side?

What if I told you that the best way to deal with them is to pray for them? But not pray in the way you'd first expect—"Fix that person God. Make them listen, be less abrasive, change the way they treat others, me especially." Pray instead that God give them every good thing you want for yourself: health, good relationships, satisfying work and inner peace. Pray that every day for two weeks. Pray it even when it's only words or when you have to pray for the grace to be willing to be willing to pray it. If you do something amazing will happen. Your heart will be softened and you will be free.

Carrying resentments and judgments about others imprisons those carrying them and keeps them captive. It weighs their spirits down. The key to release is in their pockets, but it's a real struggle letting go of the familiar feelings and behaviors that have been held on to for so long. I'm not suggesting that you put yourself back in the same relationship with someone who abused or seriously hurt you. What I am saying is that you can choose to not let them, as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) says, continue to live rent free in your head.

The Big Book of AA offered this advice about how to pray for those you resent, taken from Jesus' admonition to love your enemies, be good to those

who hurt you...when someone asks you to carry a burden a mile, carry it two miles.... At first glance, it doesn't seem to make sense, but in God's way of doing things it makes perfect sense.

When I was working years ago in a chemical dependency treatment center I gave a lecture about that kind of freeing prayer. "That's the stupidest thing I ever heard," the leader of the group of about 50 patients shouted out. He went on, "some man raped my daughter several years ago and if I ever find that #\*\*\*## person I'd kill him with my bare hands." "Where is he now?" I asked. "I have no idea," he snapped back. "And where are you?" I said. "I'm in a treatment center, but what's that got to do with anything?" he muttered, "That's still the stupidest thing I ever heard!"

A few weeks later he came up to me in the hallway and whispered, "You were right." "Could you say that louder? I didn't hear you," I responded. "You were right."

Though I've never been in his situation, I have dealt with people who are thorns in my spirit, and when I pray this way, I find I become free and my heart is often softened to see the wound that is causing the behaviors that so get to me. I get a glimpse of those persons as Jesus sees and loves them and begin to understand.

I can't say that I always pray like this, that I don't get sucked in to my own prisons of judgment and resentment. But I do know that when I pray for God to bless them as I want God to bless me, I see more good, more possibility for change. I am transformed. And sometimes I even discover that some of my worst thorns are actually roses.

*—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate*



### 2015 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IN PICTURES—MAY 7TH



### CLANCY'S ANSWERS from Page 3

1. What the sun drinks from?  
j sseglas uns
2. What the pig said on the beach?  
j m'bacon
3. How trombone reaches 2nd base?  
it slides!
4. Why spider was baseball MVP?  
it was good at catching flies!
5. Birds play music at the beach?  
Sandp'ers!
6. Why insects don't drink coffee?  
it makes them do the j!tterbug!

## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

St. Leo's is proud of all of its graduates as they take the next steps in realizing their dreams and sharing their gifts with the wider community. And for many of these graduates their experience at St. Leo's is woven into their academic projects and research.

"Reflecting the Multicultural Face of God," a study of ways to develop a multicultural worship, was the thesis of Sara Mankus, long-time member of the music ministry who received her master's in theology from Xavier University. She based her work on her experience at St. Leo's where the entire community has begun to sing the same words in English, Spanish, and Kirundi for special holy day songs for feasts like Christmas and Easter. Goal is to eventually have the entire community singing the same words together regardless of the language of



Sara Mankus

St. Leo this year did their senior project on difficulties refugees face in getting employment. Jocelin will be going to Boston College where she received a \$25,000 scholarship for graduate studies in clinical social work. Natasha will be doing graduate work at the University of Michigan in a social work program that includes classes on effecting systemic changes in society.

Janvier Manishimwe graduates from Withrow University High School and plans to become a



Jon Trauth

Jon Trauth who policeman.

first came to St. Leo's several years ago to do an internship for the theology program he was involved in at Xavier University, will also be receiving a master's degree in theology from Xavier. Topic of his research is the theology of debt. He

Completing grade school are Arnold Bernardo who graduates from Resurrection School and will be attending Cristo Rey High School next year. Also going to Cristo Rey will be Janvier Musavyimana who graduates from St. Boniface School. Pascasia Irakose also graduates from St. Boniface and will be attending Mother of Mercy High School where she has received an inspiration scholarship.

—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate

discussed the debt the refugees had when they arrived and the programs St. Leo started to empower them to improve their lives and get out of debt. St. Leo's also is involved in his counseling doctoral dissertation about using horticultural therapy as a means of helping refugees deal the trauma they experienced living through war.

Jim Elfers, a new parishioner who teaches at Moeller high school, completed his capstone project getting feedback from immigrants and refugees about what it is like to be part of a multicultural parish.

Jocelin Morrow and Natasha Lovely, University of Cincinnati students who were social work interns



Jocelin Morrow

*Photos courtesy of the individuals*

# ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH

2573 St. Leo Place At Baltimore Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45225-1960

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S.POSTAGE  
PAID  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Permit No. 3402

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Food Pantry open	2	3 Food Pantry open	4 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm; Burundi women's support group 9:30am	5 Adoration 6-11pm; Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 8pm	6 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang.class 10-noon
7 Mass:10:30am; Parish Council Meeting	8 Food Pantry open	9	10 Food Pantry open	11 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm; Burundi women's support group 9:30am	12 Adoration 6-11pm; Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 8pm	13 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang.class 10-noon
14 Mass:10:30am;	15 Food Pantry open	16	17 Food Pantry open	18 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm; Burundi women's support group 9:30am	19 Adoration 6-11pm; Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 8pm	20 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang.class 10-noon
21 Mass:10:30am	22 Food Pantry open	23	24 Food Pantry open	25 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm; Burundi women's support group 9:30am	26 Adoration 6-11pm; Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 8pm	27 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang.class 10-noon
28 Mass:10:30am	29 Food Pantry open	30				