

January 28, 2017

## ***From Fr. Jim . . .***

**CISE – Catholic Inner-city School Education.** CISE is a wonderful group who has sponsored and raised funds to support our Catholic Inner-city schools. Each year, there is a second collection in parishes to help support the efforts of CISE. Our second collection, today, is for CISE. St. Boniface School and Holy Family School and St. Lawrence and Resurrection, where some of our parishioner children attend, are CISE affiliated schools. Because of CISE, children who aren't able to afford the tuition costs of a Catholic education are able to attend our Catholic Schools. Our children are doing well in these schools and are benefitting from a Catholic Education. On behalf of all the children and their parents, I want to thank you for your support of this collection. If you would still like to contribute to this cause, I believe there are still special envelopes at our church doors, please use this envelope and place it in the Sunday collection or use any envelope and mark it CISE. Your support will help with tuition costs and provides for a quality education for our children. It is an important fund for a very important cause. Again, thank you for your help.



**Catholic Education:** Because of this fund and other available financial aid to parish schools, other Catholic schools are also opening their doors to our children at St. Leo's. We strongly encourage parents to consider sending their children to a Catholic School. If you are interested and want help, please call our Pastoral Associate, Angela Anno, at our parish office and she can direct you to a school that can best benefit your child. One important benefit of having children in the Catholic school system is, if they are baptized catholic, they will be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. January 28 to February 2 is Catholic Schools Week, in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Let us always keep our catholic schools in prayer but especially this week. We pray in gratitude for the continued opportunities we receive for a Catholic education and for all the teachers, students, faculty, parents and benefactors that make this possible. May God continue to bless our Catholic Schools abundantly with peace, love, grace, knowledge and faith.

**CMA** - It is time once again for the Catholic Ministries Appeal. This is an annual appeal, on part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. There are six specific areas of ministry in the Archdiocese that this fund supports: Campus, Hospital and Prison Ministries; Retirement for Archdiocesan Priests; St. Rita School for the Deaf; Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio; Seminary and Vocations; New Evangelization. Many of you will be receiving information about this in the mail from the Archdiocese. I ask for your prayerful consideration of your support and offer you our deepest gratitude for whatever you can do. Many, many thanks.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** St. Leo's Parish Pastoral Council is the main advisory group to me about the pastoral needs and concerns for our parish. After each meeting, the minutes are posted in this bulletin to keep our community informed. We have had a new format for about a year and we are only meeting four times a year instead of once a month. January 14 was our first meeting for this year. The minutes were in last week's bulletin. We had an excellent meeting and there were great suggestions that I will be taking to our pastoral staff for input and implementation. As a parish, we are grateful that we are growing. Many of our pastoral concerns are for sacramental preparation, religious education and faith formation, spiritual growth for our adults and children, doing the spiritual works of mercy well and continuing to do the corporal works of mercy well. We have wonderful ideas under discussion and are exploring effective ways to meet these challenges. We ask for your prayer support as we try to meet the spiritual needs of all of our parishioners but especially our children, youth and young adults. Our Council members wear name tags at our Sunday Liturgy. Feel free to talk to them about our parish any time. They are your voice and they represent you and your concerns for our parish.