

September 9, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

Welcome to everyone! We are so honored and blessed to have Bishop Joe Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop Of Cincinnati, celebrate our 10:30 Mass and offer the blessing for the Dedication of our Food Pantry and Community Service Building. We are so grateful to Bishop Joe for being available to us and for his prayers and support of our work and ministry here at St. Leo. We are so appreciative of the good work that he does for so many to help our Archbishop for the good of our Archdiocese and the praise and glory of God.



Welcome to Deacon John Gerke. John's company, Gerke Electric did a lot of electrical work for the Pantry and Community Service Building. John is a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and it is wonderful to have him assist the Bishop at Mass and to celebrate with us God's blessing for the work of our hands. Welcome to all the businesses and companies who have given their time, talent and treasures to restore a former Kroger building a long time ago, back to a food source for a neighborhood that is considered to be in a "food desert." Also, we ask the Lord's blessing for the work of your hands that provides, now, a wonderful place for other community services to help us do works of mercy for those in need. You are our special guests today and we thank God for you and your kindness and generosity.

Welcome to our entire staff. They are wearing special name tags. If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please see one of them and they will be very happy to help you. We all have been planning and working hard for some years to see this dream come to reality. It hasn't been easy. Many times it seemed that we have "bitten off more than we can chew." I thank them for their perseverance, dedication, faithfulness, love for the people whom we serve, encouragement for me and bearing with me in difficult and doubtful times. I thank them for taking risks with me and helping me meet the necessary challenges to move this project forward. But we cannot tell you how much we needed you to join our cause and support us in doing what we believe the Lord wants us to do. On behalf of all of them, thank you for sharing our joy today.

Welcome to all of our volunteers. Some of them will be wearing name tags too, and they are willing to assist you at the open house of the Food Pantry and Community Service Building. Having the building in shape to function properly is a major thing but having people to actually do the ministry and service is another major thing. This is a dream come true for them also. Thank you for your love for God in your love for the people whom you serve. May God continue to bless the work of your hands day in and day out.

Welcome to all of our parishioners, neighbors and clients. This is a big day for all of us. We are celebrating the fruits of being Church together and trusting that God provides for us now and always. We are truly becoming good stewards of God's blessings and goodness to us and we are learning to share these blessings with others as generously as they are given to us. Thank you for sharing your simple and profound faith and for teaching us how to serve the Lord in faith and love.

This building is built on the kindness of volunteer parishioners, friends, neighbors, partner parishes and supporters of the cause. The ministry and service that it houses will continue to grow, develop and accomplish the mission of our parish in the same way. We need all of you to continue to help us. Please take time to look at the information available on our web site and at the Open House for volunteer opportunities at the pantry and for ways to support the work of our mission. Thanks for making this day possible and thanks for sharing our joy today. May God bless the work of your hands and our hands together now and always.