

May 3, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is unofficially known as Good Shepherd Sunday because in all three cycles of readings the Good Shepherd is mentioned. My dog, Clancy (God rest his soul) was a Border Collie mix. Border Collies come from Ireland and are working dogs that have been trained to herd sheep. Although Clancy was certainly domesticated and I have no idea if he had learned to herd sheep, occasionally he showed me what I believe is a herding instinct. At those times, he reminded me of the Good Shepherd.

I think Clancy's herding instincts came out when I ran the vacuum sweeper. As soon as I turned it on, no matter where he was, even if he was sleeping, he ran. At first, I thought he was afraid and that he was running away from something that may hurt him. But he never ran away or too far. He ran past me and then circled back and watched me attentively with his head turned slightly and his ears straight up at attention. When I changed direction and came toward him, again he moved quickly past me and circled back once more to take a watchful and alert position.

It seemed that he was on guard to protect me from something that may want to hurt me! When I finished vacuuming, I made a point to pet him, affirm him and thank him for his protection and concern for me from something that appeared to him to be a dangerous undertaking. That's my boy!! Even when he wrote in his column in the Newsletter that I didn't always feed him right or take him for walks, (I do believe someone was putting words into his mouth!) he never held this against me. Even if these were true and he would remember these things, I believe he would remain faithful to his task and be right by my side to protect me from harm's way. Again that's my boy!

In the Good Shepherd Gospels, we are told that a shepherd knows his sheep's voice and the sheep know his shepherd's voice. The sheep hear the shepherd's voice and they follow the shepherd. (This was true with Clancy and me, some of the time!) The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep and will guard the sheep from being snatched up by the wolf (or the vacuum sweeper). If the sheep are good or bad or lost or among the fold or of another fold, the Good Shepherd remains faithful to being good and offering protection and keeping guard and giving his life to all the sheep, no matter what.

The Good Shepherd image is a great one to describe the Resurrected Christ. In the Resurrected Christ we can easily see how the Lord lays down his life for all the sheep in order to take it up again. We clearly see how the lost are found and how the Good Shepherd is the gate that all the sheep pass through for eternal life. In this way, the Shepherd knows each and every one of us and each and every one of us knows the Risen Christ as our Good Shepherd. In this way, the Lord protects, guards, and saves all the sheep from the effects of sin and death. In this way, the Lord came that everyone may have life abundantly. Alleluia, Jesus Christ has risen indeed and his care for us never ends. Move and herd us together, O Good Shepherd, into life with God and each other with the very life that moved you to lay down your life so that others may live. Give us life with you that never ends and hold onto us tightly until you bring us safely home. "The Lord is our Shepherd, there is nothing more that we shall ever want."

Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for May: Generous Anonymous Donor

All events, classes, and meetings at St. Leo's are canceled until further notice.

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 are invited to visit St. Leo Church to pray in the sanctuary, or to use the computers in Centennial Hall by appointment only.

Fr. Jim is happy to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only. Please call the office, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00am and 1:30pm to make your appointment.



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

You can **make your Sunday Offering** at: www.saint-leo.org/DonateNow

or, you can drop off your Sunday Offering in the slot in the back door of the rectory, or you can mail your Sunday offering to: St. Leo the Great Church 2573 St. Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

For more information: visit our website at: www.saint-leo.org Or visit our Facebook page at: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church.

Food Pantry hours are Mon. Wed. and Fri. 1 to 3:30pm **Parish members are encouraged to visit the pantry if needed.** Special considerations have been implemented at the Food Pantry. Call 921-1044 each day to be certain the pantry is open. You will be expected to wait outside.

Due to the current viral outbreak, please know that...the Ordination of Benson Lotiang'a Lokidiriyo on May 16th 2020 at 11:00am Will take place – *viewed via video feed only.*

www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org

Your prayers will be appreciated on this day. Benson's Mass of Thanksgiving and Reception are postponed – new date to be determined. If you wish to send best wishes or a gift for Benson's Ordination it may be mailed – care of: Ed Colina, 142 Palisades Poine #5, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Hunger Walk is going VIRTUAL this year! Support St. Leo Food Pantry by supporting the 2020 Hunger Walk

JOIN OR DONATE TO OUR TEAM at:

[fsfb.convio.net/site/TR/HungerWalk/HungerWalk2020?team_id=11540&pg=team&fr_id=1430](https://www.facebook.com/convio.net/site/TR/HungerWalk/HungerWalk2020?team_id=11540&pg=team&fr_id=1430)

or, cincinnati.hungerwalk.org. Be sure to look for St. Leo Church Pantry

or, make your check payable to: Freestore Foodbank Hunger Walk

Be sure to designate St. Leo Church Pantry as your recipient.

Mail to: Freestore Foodbank Hunger Walk
1141 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Your support is VERY important! ALL money designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account. This is our "money in the bank." Due to your generosity last year, we currently have a balance in our account. Our goal this year is to have enough money at the FreeStore FoodBank to last us until the 2021 Hunger Walk! With your help we can do it!