

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .

Two weeks before Christmas
not the same in the house.
My dog Clancy was Quiet,
like a church mouse.

Suddenly he was different
no visits to my bed.
He could barely move
Only to raise his head.

His eyes were empty.
He became so thin.
The rug by the door
was his only Inn.

No eating and smiling
and playing with Jake.
Not a bark or a whimper
could he make.

The words from the vet
were ever so true.
This for me was
very sad news.

He was thirteen years old.
I rescued him at six.
I had him for seven
when he became so sick.

Cancer in his bones
would steal away his life.
And it cuts me so hard
like a very sharp knife.

But I believe his home
is now in heaven.
It is his reward.
He was a great companion.

So, thank you Clancy
you are a gentle friend.
You chased fear
from all the children.

You came to me fast
when I screamed at the "Reds"
just to be sure
I wasn't dead!

Quickly on your back
for a pat on your tummy
or on your feet
for a treat so yummy.

Jake and I miss you
as well as the parish.
So many memories
You gave us to cherish.

You blessed us all
with a love so true.
Now I have
this wish for you.

Live on my friend
with memories the best.
In the arms of God,
eternally rest.

St. Leo's Prayer Wall is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God's praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the community, as well as peacemakers and saints who have inspired us through the ages.

The Wall is a place for staff and volunteers, youth groups, community meetings, and for individuals who pass through our parking lot on the way to work, school, etc., to pray, reflect and pause. We invite you to share in this special way of prayer, joy, and thanksgiving. Praise God! God cares about every need in your life and knows what you need even before you ask Him for help. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time.

All prayer requests are held in strictest confidence. **Send your prayer request to:** Saint Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225. You can also submit your prayer request online at: <http://saint-leo/WorksofMercy/PrayerWallMinistry.aspx>.

