

Pastor's Ponderings . . .

The following was sent to me in an e-mail. I found it thought provoking and credible:

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
you can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
for U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand,
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
that I love them all - Just like I love U."
So many great people are spelled with a U,
don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
he'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

This message is really timely for us when considering our liturgical calendar. We have celebrated the Christmas Season and the incarnation of our Lord and Savior and that Jesus was truly born for us all. On March 6, Ash Wednesday, the Season of Lent begins, and we will be invited to believe that if we die with the Lord, we will also rise with Him. And in these days of Ordinary Time, from the Gospel of Luke, we hear a gospel of inclusion and redemption for all

people. This is God's plan of salvation that has our names on it and invites us to conversion, faith and witness.



The Christmas season has already stated it clearly. The Lord has taken on our nature in order that we may take on His nature. The Lenten season shows us that there is "no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." We are taught what it means to live with Jesus now and forever. We learn how to lay down our lives so that others can live and to love all others as God loves us. In Ordinary Time we come to believe that God's incredible love that dwells in us is available in every time and place and people. God's incredible, saving and redeeming love is what makes our lives and relationships holy. Because of God's love for us and our willingness to share it with others makes the Ordinary Extraordinary.

Let us pray that all people, groups, nations, churches, governments, cities, neighborhoods and families may discover deeper revelations of God's saving love and grace this year and be as generous as sharing it and witnessing to it as the Lord is in giving it to us. Yes, there is a U and even a We in Jesus. Thanks be to God!



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>.