

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .

"Would you like to see a picture of my pride and Joy?" Expecting to see a wonderful image of a new born baby or cute toddlers with huge smiles on their faces or graduates or someone's child receiving an award, this person took out of their wallet a picture of two bottles of dish soap. On one was the brand name "Pride" and on the other one was the brand name "Joy." You can imagine my surprise! This was really funny or as I often say, "It was a really good, bad joke," if you know what I mean?



I have two dogs - a nine year old Border collie whose name is Clancy and an eight year old Cockapoo named Jake. (Don't forget to read their columns in this Newsletter or as truth is known, you probably already have before reading this column!) As parents often look to their children as the pride and joy of their lives, Clancy makes me proud and Jake brings me joy. Clancy's loyalties, faithfulness, friendliness, calm and overall gentle natures make me proud.

Jake's

friendliness, playfulness, cuteness and overall childlike behavior bring me joy. Like a proud papa, whenever either one does something, amazing, funny or goofy, I always loudly proclaim to my staff: "That's my boy!" Yes, whether it is for better or for worse, Clancy and Jake will always be my pride and joy.



Once, I received a publication in the mail from a local catholic Cincinnati high school. It is their "graduation and honor roll" issue. It is entitled "the Pride." The many pictures of graduates holding awards and receiving honors, and pictures of alumni and their successes and pictures of their trips, travels and the support of the administration and teachers show clearly that the publication is named accurately and truthfully. On the back cover of this issue is the title of this publication written vertically over a hundred or so list of names of colleges and universities where the class of 2015 has been accepted. "the Pride" is an excellent name for this issue and anyone who reads it will be introduced to the pride and the joy of this school.

I am thinking that the month of November could be called Pride and Joy Month for God's church. This month begins with the Feasts of All Saints and The Commemoration of All the Faithful

Departed. The Saints that we celebrate and their lives and the stories that we remember is like reading the Church's honor roll or visiting the Church's hall of fame. But because of their unconditional love for God and neighbor, their loyalty, generosity, compassion, selflessness, perseverance, lives of prayer and the Holy Spirit and sacrifice for the good of all, their imaging and witnessing to Christ, saints are the pride of God's church.



As we remember and continue to pray for our deceased relatives and friends and all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us, as we remember their call to live lives of holiness and grace, as we remember God's promise to bring them to perfection and to offer them resurrection and eternal glory and a full share in Christ's victory over sin and death, as we believe that God wants to count them among the saints and that their names are written in the book of life, we know that all the faithful departed are our joy and the joy of God's church.

If God were asked to show us a picture of his pride and joy, I believe God would show us a picture of the Son, Jesus. If Jesus were to show us a picture of his pride and joy, I believe Jesus would show us a picture of all the people for whom he gave up his own life to save from sin and death. I believe he would show us a picture of the universal church throughout the world from the beginning of time to the present and into the future. I believe that Jesus would show us a picture of all of his brothers and sisters in Christ in which we are included.



The month of November ends with the celebration of Thanksgiving. Let us give thanks for all the examples of God's pride and joy who have blessed our lives with God's love and presence. Let us, also, give thanks that we can be and live as God's pride and joy now and forever.

~ Fr. Jim

## 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>.