

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .

The season of fall is one of my favorite times of the year. Liturgically, the church gathers during this time to celebrate some great feasts and occasions: All Saints, All Souls, and Thanksgiving Day. Also, the memorial of St. Leo the Great, the patron Saint of our parish, is November 10th. We are 136 years old this year!

If we take a picture of our parish community on Thanksgiving Day gathering to celebrate Eucharist and to share a Turkey dinner, would we see our Lord and Savior in the picture? Would it be like taking a “selfie” with God? If we could take a picture of all the Saints and all Souls, would we see God in the picture? Would, this, too be like taking a “selfie” with God?

Scripture tells us that disciples, apostles and followers of Christ make up the Body of Christ in the world today and we all have been made in the image and likeness of God. When we look at each other and all others, we are to see the face of God and when God looks at us, God wants to see God’s own image. So much God’s great love forms, shapes, and transforms us. So much of God’s love joins and unites us together as one. How important is it for everyone to live in the created image and likeness of the Savior? What difference will it make for how we treat each other and for bringing peace to the world? What implications will it have for the healing of hearts and minds? When others look at us, will they see the Lord? In whom do we see the Lord ever so clearly?

Similarly, there is a church in Rome that is dedicated to the service of the poor who live on the streets. In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, there are black and white pictures of parishioners and street people caring for one another. The

implication is that the Lord is seen in the pictures of God’s people on the street and in those who care for them imagines the

presence of God in the Eucharist and vice versa. Nearby this chapel, is a burnt cross with a burnt corpus of Jesus without hands, legs and feet. The caption on the wall reads: “You are my hands and feet.”



The season of fall begins with the Church celebrating two feast days: The Feast of All Saints on November 1st and the Feast of All Souls on November 2nd. Both of these feasts could be entitled: “Jesus takes a selfie.” Both of these feasts remind us that we are all to be “picture perfect” as we live in the image and likeness of God on earth only to share eternal life and glory with God in heaven. As we live in God’s image, God will make us perfect as God is perfect and bring us all to perfection one day.

Near the end of November, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. How often, do you think, when God takes a picture of God, it turns out to be our families sharing a meal together and giving thanks for the life and love that is found among family and friends? How often, do you think, it turns out to be the Church of God celebrating Eucharist and giving thanks for the life, love, and salvation that is found in the dying and rising of Our Lord, Jesus Christ? Jesus takes a “selfie” with us or we take a “selfie” with Jesus. It is meant to be that we are the image of each other – Jesus and us; us and the Lord.

Have fun taking pictures of you and others and of our God at prayer, work and play. Don’t forget to share your pictures with everyone and rejoice at the presence of God in our midst. Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God for being the Body of Christ. May God continue to shape and mold us more and

A HUGE THANK YOU TO SAINT JOHN’S J&P COMMISSION

The Saint John J&P Commission sponsored a Tool box project on Sunday, September 18 at Saint Leo's after the 10:30 AM Mass. The group cut enough material for 24 tool boxes to be built on site at St Leo's. In addition, the group had a tool drive at their parish to collect basic tools to go in the tool boxes. A group of 10 people from St John's signed up to help build the boxes along side St Leo youth, young adults and their parents. The project was a tremendous success! In sharing their time and their talents, the everlasting treasure of friendship and community was the end result - along with a really cool tool box!

