

# **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .**

November 10<sup>th</sup> is the Memorial of St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church. St. Leo the Great is the patron saint of our parish. Not only do we celebrate our parish feast day on November 10<sup>th</sup>, but we also celebrate the anniversary of the day in which St. Leo the Great Parish was founded. It is hard to believe that we are 135 years old this year!

St. Leo was the first Pope to be given the title "the Great." From what I have read about him, he was the "complete package." He did all his papal responsibilities very well. He was a great administrator, preacher, reconciler, teacher, and defender of the faith against the heresies of his time. He was gifted in bringing reconciliation to disputing groups of Christians. He was well known for having met Attila, the Hun, on horseback, just outside of Rome, and persuaded him not to ransack and attack Rome. This is depicted on the center wall of the sanctuary in our church.

As much as he was wise and scholarly, he was also pastoral and a servant of the people. He believed fully in the heart of the Gospel message of who Jesus is, of who we can become in Christ as we cooperate with grace, and he practiced what he preached and taught. He inspired and fostered charitable works in places affected by famine, refugees, and poverty. St. Leo believed embracing the fullness of the Gospel theologically and living it in a world filled with hurt, suffering and needs. His preaching was deeply spiritual that reached the everyday needs and interests of his flock.

Leo died on November 10, 461. In 1754, Pope Benedict XIV proclaimed Leo a Doctor of the Church and his Feast Day is in the liturgical calendar on the day he died, November 10. I believe the first Mass for our parish was also celebrated in November and therefore we celebrate not only our Feast Day but the anniversary of the founding of the parish in November also.

In our 135<sup>th</sup> year, the parish of St. Leo the Great, in the name of the Lord and St. Leo, will continue to fight the injustices and evils of our time by living and sharing the Catholic Church's Social Teachings and living with forgiveness and reconciliation for the disputes that still live among us. We will strive to live the Gospel fully theologically, pastorally, and spiritually with outreach to the immigrant, refugee, and all those affected by poverty, discrimination, and prejudice. We will continue to meet the everyday needs and interests of the flock with your help and prayers. And we will keep giving thanks to God for the new life and growth he has given us. We will always thank God for you and those who partner with us to do the Lord's work, serve God's people, and become all that we can be in Christ as we cooperate with grace.

Please share our joy with us this year. Keep us in prayer as we pray for you. The following is a song written by our music director, Rick Nohle for our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It can be used each year by changing the year. It tells our story and expresses our thanks.

Please enjoy! St. Leo, Pray for us now and always!

## **St. Leo Anniversary Song**

**Words & Music by: Rick Nohle**

One hundred thirty-five years ago, In the place where we now stand,  
A small band of struggling immigrants, When You took them by the hand.

They did not have much money, But they gave You all they could,  
And You multiplied their sacrifice, And we see that it was good. It was good!

From Germany and Italy, they traveled, From elsewhere in Europe, they came,  
With various cultures and languages, But their hopes were much the same.

They set to work building an edifice, With mortar, brick, and stone,

And as a result of their laboring, St. Leo Church was born! It was born!

Would You lead us in the future, As You've led us in the past?

Give us faith, and hope, and charity, The only things that last.

In the love poured down from heaven, By the Father and the Son,

We invite the Holy Spirit, To unite our hearts as one.

The immigrants now come from other lands, But our mission is the same,

Africa, Central America, Still we preach in Jesus' name,

Of the love poured down from heaven, By the Father and the Son,

And invite the Holy Spirit, To unite our hearts as one.

**Imana shimwe!**

**Alabare al Señor!**

**Everyone praise the Lord!**

**Gott sei dank!**

Let us show the works of mercy, That we ourselves receive.

Let us mirror godly kindness, Until everyone believes,

In the love poured down from heaven, By the Father and the Son,

And invite the Holy Spirit, To unite our hearts as...

**One hundred thirty-five years ago, St. Leo Church was born!**

**One hundred thirty-five years ago, St. Leo Church was born!**

**One hundred thirty-five years ago, St. Leo Church was born!**

Copyright © 2011 by Rick Nohle (revised 2021)