



August 20, 2023
The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Father James P. Schmitz
Pastor
4940 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109



PARISH STAFF | 216.661.1006

Father James Schmitz, *Pastor*

jschmitz@leothegreat.org

Deacon Patrick & Joan Berigan

pberigan@leothegreat.org

jberigan@leothegreat.org

Brenda Basalla, *Business Manager*

bbasalla@leothegreat.org

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ncapone@leothegreat.org

Mickey Stitt, *Music Director*

mstitt@leothegreat.org

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mpiechowski@leothegreat.org

Miss Nadia, *Parish Center Coordinator*

missnadia@leothegreat.org

Judy Strodtbeck, *Facilities Manager*

jstrodtbeck@leothegreat.org

RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday | 9:00am—4:00pm

Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday | 9:00am—12:00pm

SCHOOL STAFF: 216.661.2120

Denise Burns, *Principal*

dburns@leothegreat.org

Robin Salem, *Assistant Principal*

rsalem@leothegreat.org

Eileen Breitmeyer, *School Secretary*

ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org

Joann Deranek, *Director of Religious Education*

jderanek@leothegreat.org

SCHOOL HOURS: Please note that our School Office is currently operating under *Summer Hours* while school is not in session.

MONDAY–FRIDAY: 8:00a.m.–1:00p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS

Saturday Vigil | 4:00pm

Sundays | 8:00am and 11:00am

WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday | 8:30am

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

8:30am and 7:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual confessions are celebrated Saturdays from 3:00pm–3:30pm, Sundays from 10:00a–10:30a, or anytime by request or appointment.

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

New parishioners and those moving from the parish or changing addresses are asked to contact the Rectory Office or use our website.

BAPTISMS

Parents desiring Baptism for their child are asked to contact the Rectory Office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Preparations and arrangements must be made at least 6 months in advance with a priest. Only then can a wedding date be confirmed.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you are interested about becoming Catholic or have questions about the Catholic Faith, please call the Rectory.

If you or a family member are ill or homebound please let us know so that our priest or deacon can visit and provide spiritual care.



Instagram @leothegreatorg



Facebook—leothegreatorg



Twitter @leothegreatorg

Read the latest bulletin & find other useful information by visiting our website at

www.leothegreat.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

WE APPRECIATE YOU < — These 3 words seem so inadequate. They do however express the gratitude of those you have helped to feed. On their behalf, your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization says “Thank you very much!”

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE | Our *Back to School Drive* is currently going on. Just put your cash or check in an envelope, mark it “Back to School Drive” and drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Rectory Office. We appreciate you!

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM

Womankind

Dear Fr. Jim,

We are overwhelmed at the generosity of the parishioners of St. Leo the Great Parish. A total of \$2,862.92 was raised for Womankind through your Baby Bottle Fundraiser. We are so incredibly grateful! Your kindness helps us bring hope, help and possibility to any pregnancy woman who needs us, no matter the circumstances.

Womankind has been making a profound impact on the lives of our clients for 48 years. We walk the journey with each woman we serve from when she first becomes pregnant till after her baby is born. Our ability to provide such caring services at no cost is only possible because of the support of the community, including your parishioners!

On behalf of the women and families who benefit from your generosity, thank you again for supporting Womankind.



PARISHIONER PHOTOS

JUST SMILE AND SAY CHEESE!

Did you miss the opportunity the first weekend? In conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the parish, a photographer will be available in the vestibule after each of the Masses the weekend September 9th & 10th. This is an opportunity for you and your family to be part of the memories for this year and future years. No advance registration required. Refreshments will be available, and participants will get a free 5” x 7” photo.

FESTIVAL NEWS

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS

The parish Festival will be **Friday, October 20th, and Saturday, October 21st**, this year. Each parish family is asked to participate in the Festival raffle. The Festival raffle tickets are in the main vestibule of the church. Due to space constraints, raffle tickets for zip codes 44109, 44131, 44134 and 44144 are in the vestibule. Parishioners living outside those zip codes can pick up their tickets in the Rectory Office. Please pick up your packet of tickets before or after Mass on the weekends. (All ticket stubs will be entered in the main drawing on October 21st).



EARLY BIRD DRAWING

If you turn your sold tickets in by **September 3rd**, you will be eligible for the next seller \$100 Early Bird Drawing.



Gather Us In—1948–2023

Mark your calendars to join us for Mass, events & activities throughout the year!

Are you a former student of St. Leo School?

Is your child a former student of St. Leo School?

Please, let us know by completing a form on the parish website leothegreat.org. Under “Organizations” tab select *Alumni Association*. We hope to hear from you!

Photo Opportunity —September 9th & 10th following all of the Masses. A photographer will be available in the vestibule of the church to take pictures of each parish family to mark the parish’s 75th anniversary.

Parish Service Day — Pitch in with fellow parishioners to make our parish buildings shine for our 75th anniversary!

Parish Open House—An opportunity to see changes taken place over the last 75 years!

Presentation on the Eucharist—Oct. 15th at 6:00 p.m. (in the church)

MEMORIES

Mr. Dienes was our 8th grade homeroom teacher, and he was well liked by all of his students. His wife was pregnant with their first child, and the students wanted to do something special for them. With the help of some of the other teachers, the students planned a small baby shower for Mr. Dienes and his wife. Of course, on the day of the baby shower, Mr. Dienes had a difficult time getting all 43 students (in one classroom!) to pay attention and was a bit aggravated with them. When he was called out of the classroom by one of the other teachers, the students snuck down to one of the basement lunchrooms and waited in the dark. The other teacher brought Mr. Dienes to the lunchroom and stepped aside to allow him to enter the lunchroom first and turn on the light. He stood there, stunned, as the students yelled SURPRISE and his very pregnant wife stepped over to him. All of the morning’s aggravation was soon forgiven as the soon-to-be parents opened their gifts, and everyone enjoyed the refreshments.
-- Nancy Zola

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES WITH US! You can submit them to nzola@leothegreat.org or write it down on a piece of paper and turn it in to the Rectory Office. We also welcome photos throughout the year of the people and events taking place. Send them to photos@leothegreat.org.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE LAST PAGE OF THIS BULLETIN FOR SOME INTERESTING HISTORY ON ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH!

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO



WEDDING BANNS II. JILL KRAMER & NATHANIEL FRANCES

FIRST FRIDAY

Please note that Adoration on September 1st will begin after the morning Mass as usual, however, due to a wedding be held in our Church, will be **ending with Benediction at 1:45p.m.**



LABOR DAY MASS

Monday, September 4th, is Labor Day. God has given us many gifts and talents, and we reap the benefits of our labors. Give thanks for these many gifts and talents at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Labor Day. Weather permitting, Mass will be held at the outdoor shrine.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Irma Zappitelli, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, John Sofcheck, Irene (Ernie) Santiago, Gary Skelley, Virginia Soflkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublavy, Anna Mendoza, Marianne Kucinski-Powers, Edith Lysyj, John Geiger, Rosie Colucci, Buzzy Miano, Judy Bruzshinsky, Carol Broze, Stan Wasacz, Doug Kiesel, Marcia Bailey, Jim Tisch, MaryLou Durfee, Chris Grdosic, Kathy Svoboda, Matt Pauloski, Kelley, Tootie, Megan Arena, Lena Sunyak, Chuck Pacanovsky, Theresa Truxall, Susan Fenski, Antoinette Jakosh, Rose Arlia, Liz Woisnet, Betty Popow, R.Rosario, Margarita Quinones, Allen Phillips, Ruth Bublavy, John O'Malley, Tina Sunday, Karen Horvath, Jesse Kazimer, William Wollard, Claudia Wollard, Carol Rucinski, Joe Deranek, Ben Wheelock, Janice Smith, Lesley Uffman, Dorothy Pazdernik, Sandie Stefanchik, Jordan Sierra Lionberger, Dottie Barr, Joe Barr, Brett Stewart, Allison Dusenbury, Mary Ann Perry, Mary Ann Corlett, Nancy Dighero, Shawn Calvey, Gloria Madonia, Sharon Rock, Anthony Bozek, Joe Brodzinski, Suzanne Brown, Joyce Stevens and Victoria Fischer.

Sanctuary Candle Intention August 13th—August 27th

Michael Ciereszewski

"Love and miss you"

—April & Dawn



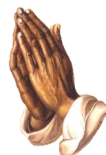
Jason Ziga

St. Cyprian, Perry | Year 1

Every week we pray for those discerning a vocation in religious life. Pray that they may continue to persevere and that others may respond to God's call.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 21st—Saint Pius X, Pope
8:30am +Fred Alexander (Mary Dina)
Tuesday, August 22nd—Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:30am +Joe Jares (Jennie Shantery)
Wednesday, August 23rd—Weekday
8:30am Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Frolo
Wedding Anniversary (Barbra Dobay)
Friday, August 25th—Weekday
8:30am +Fr. Russell P. Lowe (Fr. Jim Schmitz)
Saturday, August 26th—Weekday
4:00pm +Antonio "Tony" Pogado (Family)
Sunday, August 27th—The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am +Louis Dudor (Dave Dudor)
11:00am People of the Parish



Notes: The + before a person's name indicates that they are deceased. Since there is no Mass here at St. Leo's on Thursdays you can attend Mass at one of our other local parishes; St. Charles (7am), St. Barbara (7:30am), St. Francis de Sales (8:45am) or Mary Queen of Peace (8am).

2024 MASS INTENTIONS BOOK

Our book for Mass Intentions on September 11, 2023 after the 8:30a.m. Mass. 1 Weekend Mass and 1 Weekday Mass—OR—2 Weekday Masses will be available for you to request for a stipend of \$10 each. This system is in place to best accommodate the special intentions of all our parishioners. Lines during the first day or two of opening can resemble lines you might see on Black Friday while shopping. In other words, please be considerate of each other and patient with our staff as they work diligently to see that your requests are fulfilled :) Sanctuary Candle Intentions will also be available for \$10 (to cover cost of candle replacement).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 56:1, 6-7

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who lived after the Jews returned from exile. Today's passage speaks of salvation being offered to all regardless of ethnic origin or social condition. Christians have seen in this an anticipation of the message that Jesus will preach.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 11:13-15, 29-32

Today's reading is the conclusion of Paul's thoughts about how Jewish people are going to participate in the saving grace of Jesus. Paul was Jewish and he loved his own people. He was disappointed that most of them had not accepted the gospel. Paul hoped that his success in converting the Gentiles would encourage the Jewish people to take a second look at the message of Jesus.

SUNDAY Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

MONDAY Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

TUESDAY Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

THURSDAY Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

FRIDAY Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

SATURDAY Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12

A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

In Matthew 15:21-28, we encounter a poignant story that transcends its biblical context, offering profound insights into the realm of mental health and human perseverance. The passage narrates the encounter between Jesus and a Canaanite woman who pleads for her daughter's healing. Initially met with what seems like dismissal, she persists with unwavering faith, stating, "Even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." The Canaanite woman's desperation mirrors the struggles of those grappling with their own inner turmoil. Just as she faced doubt and potential rejection, individuals navigating mental health battles may feel unheard or rejected by society, their own minds, or even God. Yet, it is the woman's unyielding determination and trust that resonate most deeply. Her courage to stand firm, despite seemingly insurmountable odds, underscores the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. Her faith becomes a beacon of hope, reminding us that even in our darkest moments, the smallest glimmer of faith can ignite profound transformation.

Drawing from the wisdom of Saint Teresa of Ávila, who once said, "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass away: God never changes," we find solace and guidance. Saint Teresa's words echo the Canaanite woman's unwavering faith and her ability to overcome despair. In the realm of mental health, these words remind us that while challenges may persist, they are transient, and the foundation of our faith remains constant. The journey of mental health and well-being involves persistent self-care, seeking support, and maintaining faith in the possibility of healing and growth. Just as the woman's plea was answered, our diligent efforts and unshakable faith can lead us towards spiritual and emotional restoration.

—Luke Brown, LPCC



SACRED HEART
COUNSELING

OUR CARING TEAM CAN HELP WITH:

- ANGER MANAGEMENT
- ANXIETY
- RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS
- BEREAVEMENT
- TRAUMA
- DEPRESSION
- STRESS
- SELF-CARE AND MORE...

PROVIDING HOLISTIC CATHOLIC COUNSELING SERVICES THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT. SERVICES OFFERED INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING.

OFFICES LOCATED IN CLEVELAND AND AKRON!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.SACREDHEARTCLEVELAND.COM OR CONTACT US AT
E: CONTACT@SACREDHEARTCLEVELAND.COM
P: 440-305-6192

PARISH PICNIC

The 2023 Parish Picnic was a huge success despite the days of rain leading up to the event! Besides enjoying the food and music, several people went home with delicious cakes that they won in the cake walk. To avoid the mud on the rain-soaked grounds, the picnic was moved to the cafeteria where parishioners got a sneak peak of some of the improvements to the school building, including the air-conditioning and the new tables and benches. Thank you to everyone who attended and brought a side dish or dessert to share. SPECIAL THANKS to all of the volunteers who made it possible by setting up, cleaning up, grilling, serving food and organizing the games. See you next year!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,



I want to express our sympathy to the family of Ruth Frolich, whose Mass of Christian Burial we celebrated last Monday. She was married to the late Kenneth Macy and had 3 sons with him: Michael, Timothy & David. Then she had a stepson named John Frohlich when she married his father, the late John Frohlich. Ruth was a woman of faith, whom I remember sitting faithfully in the pews when she was able to attend Mass. She had a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary & prayed the rosary often, and also to St. Faustina, to whom Jesus spoke about his Divine Mercy. Ruth was of service to others as a Den Mother for scouts here at St. Leo's and when she worked in the gift shop at Marymount Hospital. She sent her 3 sons to our parish school and worked here as a librarian. She was a caregiver for her parents and was generous to her children and grandchildren, whom she loved dearly by putting them before herself. May the Divine Mercy of Jesus be shown to her now so that she may join Our Lady and St. Faustina in the praise of God forever.

My sincere thanks to everyone who gave of their time toward the parish picnic last Sunday...those who setup, cleaned up and cooked. And thanks to the many people who came over to enjoy some good food and fellowship. It was a great turnout & I'm glad that you were able to get some relief from the new air conditioning we just had installed in the cafeteria. You probably didn't notice but the new windows in the cafeteria are matched with the new windows throughout the whole school building and I'm sure they will help with the efficiency of our heat and air conditioning in that building. Pictures from the event can be seen now on our website and on our Instagram account (leothegreatorg) so feel free to see if you were captured eating your meal.

A Eucharistic Miracles Display is a traveling museum-like exhibition featuring the Eucharistic Miracles as chronicled by Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006). Blessed Carlo was a teenager from Italy who developed a website dedicated to the documented and scientifically scrutinized occasions when the Holy Eucharist changed in its physical appearance, reminding us that the bread and wine of the Mass truly become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. I was able to visit his glass casket which is in a church in Assisi in Italy, when we visited there earlier this year. There will be a Eucharistic Miracles Display from August 18-25, 2023 at St. Cyprian Parish in Perry, Ohio (here in the Diocese of Cleveland). It would be an interesting exhibit to see! Dates and times are as follows. Please contact St. Cyprian parish if you have any questions at (440) 259-2344. Saturday, August 19, 6:00 – 7:30 pm; Sunday, August 20, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm; Monday – Thursday, August 21-24, 9:00 – 11:00 am & 5:30 – 7:30 pm; Friday, August 25, 9:00 – 11:00 am. Visit their website here: <https://www.stcypriansparish.com/>

Here is prayer asking for the Intercession of Blessed Carlo Acutis:

O Father, who have given us the ardent witness of the young Venerable Carlo Acutis, who made the Eucharist the center of his life and the strength of his daily commitments so that others may love You above all else, may he soon be numbered among the Blessed and the Saints of Your Church. Confirm my faith, nurture my hope, strengthen my charity, in the image of young Carlo, who, growing in these virtues, now lives with You. Grant me the grace that I need....I trust in You, Father, and your Beloved Son Jesus, in the Virgin Mary, our Dearest Mother, and in the intercession of Your Venerable Carlo Acutis. Amen.

Fr. James Schmitz

BEREAVEMENT SHARING GROUP

Have you recently lost a loved one—a spouse, sibling, a parent, other relative or a close friend? Join the St. Leo the Great Bereavement Sharing Group. We are a group who have a common bond—the loss of someone close to us. All are welcome to come and share with us on the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 PM in the Parish Center. We meet for about an hour and share our feelings and memories of our loved ones.

Feel free to join us—no reservations needed!

Upcoming Meetings:

September 6th, October 4th & November 1st

**If you have any questions,
contact Joan Berigan at 216-661-1006 or by
email: jberigan@leothegreat.org.**

PRE-PLANNED FUNERAL

Do your loved ones know what your wishes are for your funeral Mass? Have you thought about the readings you'd like to have at your funeral Mass? If so, contact Joan Berigan at the rectory (216-661-1006) or jberigan@leothegreat.org for help in pre-planning your funeral Mass.

HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful that so many of you have continued to contribute. Here are a few ways to help you with your contributions:

- 1) Mail your contribution envelope(s) to us, either for the week or the month. (St. Leo the Great, 4940 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109)
- 2) Drop your contribution envelope(s) in the mail slot of the rectory office door.
- 3) Online Giving is available here at St. Leo the Great. Look for this icon on our website www.leothegreat.org to sign up. It's incredibly easy and you have many options: weekly, monthly or one-time contributions, the ability to use a checking/savings account direct withdrawal (you just need your account and routing numbers) or you can use a debit or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover). It is simple and secure.

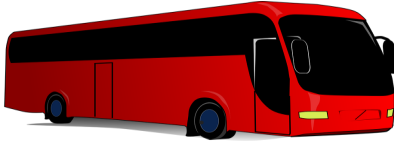
If you have any questions or need help, call the parish office at 216-661-1006 and we will gladly assist you.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The Women's Renewal back in July was such a wonderful time, so, let's get together again! This invitation goes out to all the ladies of the parish, whether you've been a part of renewal programs in the past or are looking to be involved in new programs to come! Join us for breakfast at Big Boy at 7800 Granger Rd. on August 22nd @ 9:30a.m. We look so forward to catching up with you all to delight in the Truth, share thoughts & inspire ideas that will strengthen our faith and encourage one another to reach out and connect over Christ. Contact Eva at 216-440-2498 to RSVP!

UPCOMING BUS TRIPS

*Check the bulletin boards at the church entrance for more detail



For reservations or questions contact
Sandy Diaddario
at 216-926-3123

AMISH COUNTRY

Annual Fall Shopping
Monday, September 11, 2023
Lunch at Berlin Farmstead (included)
\$80 per person
Deadline: Monday, August 21st!!!



SENECA NIAGARA (overnight stay)
Thursday, October 12th, 2023
Casino Bonus \$35 slot play \$15 food credit



SENECA ALLEGANY
Friday, October 13th, 2023
Casino Bonus \$25 slot play
Deadline: Friday, September 1st!!!

Cost: \$287.00 per person-single occupancy
\$196.00 per person-double occupancy
\$188.00 per person-triple occupancy



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AMISH COUNTRY

Monday, November 13, 2023
Cost: \$80.00 per person
Lunch at Dutch Valley Restaurant (included)
Deadline: Monday, October 23rd!!!

CURRENT GIFT CARD DEALS



Buy 1 \$25 IHOP Gift Card
Get 1 \$10 Papa John's Gift Card
FREE



Stop by the Rectory Office and ask us about our deals!



THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

August 14, 2023

Congratulations,
GianLuca Capone!

PARISH SUPPORT

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Sun. Envelope	\$	5,448.35
WeShare	\$	2,003.50
Total	\$	7,451.85

Cap. Improv	\$	245.00
WeShare	\$	25.00
Total	\$	270.00

SVDP	\$	40.00
WeShare	\$	237.87
Total	\$	277.87

Thank you for
you continued
generosity and
support of

St. Leo the
Great Parish !

JOIN US

GENESIS OF GENDER

series and study

We invite you into this journey of seeking the truth, beauty, and goodness of being created in the image and likeness of God. Explore and discuss with others how we live out our femininity and masculinity while deepening your relationship with Christ and His Church.

5 LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

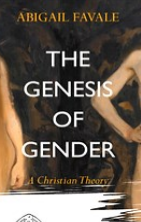
St. Mary, Chardon – Dr. Joel Johnson

St. Mary, Hudson – Dr. Matt Jordan

St. Columbkille, Parma – Dr. Beth Rath

Sacred Heart, Wadsworth – Jen Ricard

Holy Trinity, Avon – Maria Wancata



\$35

includes book &
light refreshments

THURSDAYS
9/7, 9/14,
9/21, 9/28
7-9PM



WWW.TOBCLE.ORG/REGISTER

registration closes 9/1



Study is co-hosted by TOB CLE & Office of Marriage & Family Ministry

CHOIR KICK-OFF PICNIC



When: Saturday, August 26 from 5 – 8 PM

Where: Greg and Pat Dolezal | 4839 W. 13 th St.

Who: Current choir members and spouses and *any one else interested in joining choir!*



To confirm your attendance and to sign up for a dish to share, please call Pat at 330.933.4992 or email: jgpadolezal@yahoo.com

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

"The Challenge of Stewardship"

By: Tracy Earl Welliver

Every day we are called by Christ to respond in some way. The more practice we have at giving of ourselves freely and living in His presence, the easier it is to discern that call. Once we hear the call, the choice is ours: will we respond with yes or no? We could say that we are not required to say yes because God has given us free will. However, our response speaks much to where we are in our maturity of faith. When we were children, the word "no" used to be one of our favorites. If we continue to say that as we get older, well, that says something about where we are in our walk with the Lord. If we truly are disciples of Jesus Christ and are serious about growing in our faith, we will say "yes." We are not required to say yes, but we say yes because that is who we have become. This is the challenge of a stewardship way of life.

Have we matured enough to say yes when God calls, regardless of how much our answer may cost us? What matters more to us: what it will cost us or our relationship with Jesus? Some days we will easily be able to say yes. The grace and love he gives us will be plenty to see us through whatever situation in which we find ourselves. However, we are imperfect beings and there will be days when we are more into ourselves than him. It is on those days that we find ourselves at a true crossroads of a challenge. The choice is always ours. Hopefully, our faith will be strong enough. His call is never for his own sake. He calls us because the world he created and the Church he instituted need us. They wait just as he does for our response.

HOW DO YOU START A PARISH?

It can be said with some assurance that none of the St. Leo founders had ever begun a parish from the ground up. But there was a process in the parish's early years.

The first step is to get out the word. Shown here is the Our Lady of Good Counsel bulletin announcing the new parish of St. Leo the Great

and its boundaries at the time. Also shown is a letter from Fr. Lux

to Our Lady of Good Counsel parishioners living within that area. The diocese estimated the new parish would have 300 families. It turns out there were 500 families within the parish boundaries and possibly more, considering that some Our Lady of Good Counsel parishioners were reluctant to join the new parish. In 2009 Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish was renamed Mary Queen of Peace after it merged with Corpus Christi Parish.

The next step is to form an organizational structure—mainly a Holy Name Society for the men and an Altar and Rosary Society for the women. This appears to have been standard operating procedure in 1948. The two organizations provided

spiritual support for the community, but they were also a principal fund-raising source.

Shown here is a photo of the first major parish fund-raiser held by the Altar and Rosary and Society, probably at Our Lady of Good Counsel. The exact date is unknown but it was probably before 1950.

—John Sabol

