



St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

905.655.3286 • Fax: 905.655.4519

www.stleothegreat.ca • e-mail: st.leos@bellnet.ca

Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget

Director of Catechetics: Patrick Sullivan • Parish Secretary: Maureen Holly
905-655-3286 x 103 905-655-3286 x 101

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed for Lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Friday Office Closed.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Mass: 7:00 p.m.
Rosary prayed 20 minutes before weekday masses.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
or anytime by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please pick up a baptism package from Fr. Charles after mass.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

The Archdiocese of Toronto requires that you contact your parish priest at least one year in advance of the planned date of your wedding and that you participate in a marriage preparation course. Please call the Parish Office.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.
Registration forms (Welcome Cards) are available in the vestibule of the church.

LOCAL HOSPITALS AND EMERGENCY PASTORAL VISITATION

If you or someone in your family is in the Oshawa, Whitby or Port Perry Hospitals and would like to have a priest (for serious reasons) visit the person who is sick for Anointing of the Sick, Last Rites, Confession or Communion, please note that there is a full-time Catholic Priest assigned to these three hospitals at various times of the week. Simply ask hospital staff to inquire as to whether *Father Manuel Duterte* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If Father Manuel is not available and there is an emergency requiring a Catholic priest, please call St. Leo the Great Parish at 905-655-3286 and when prompted, press "8" and leave your message. Fr. Charles will receive your message (if he is available) and return your call. If there is no emergency but you would like to speak to Fr. Charles, please call the parish office and leave a message with the parish secretary at 905-655-3286 x 101.

LONELINESS



About a week ago Pope Francis gave a second interview to a well-known atheist Eugenio Scalfari, which appeared in Italy's daily newspaper *Le Repubblica*. Like the first interview given by the Pope there has been much controversy and confusion over the remarks that he has made in these seemingly "off the cuff" remarks. Like so many others in the Church who are at pains to try and understand let alone

explain what exactly the Pope has meant by some of these more recent statements, I will leave that to the experts and the evangelists to sort out.

One of the statements made which has raised eyebrows is this one: that among the most serious evils in the world today are "youth unemployment and the loneliness of the old". For the purposes of this article I will leave the part about youth unemployment to the experts, but one of the areas I can somewhat speak to is the part about loneliness in the elderly.

I think Pope Francis has touched on something no one really talks about at all – loneliness and specifically in the aged among us. Sure, anyone can be lonely when separated by time and space from those they love due to circumstances such as going away to college or university as well as moving away from home because of a job opportunity or marriage. Yet this kind of loneliness comes with a knowledge which may soften its harshness when one knows that it won't be forever and can be remedied by circumstances of choice, like moving back. But I think now of those whose circumstances cannot be changed or remedied; those who are not loved or even remembered as they had once been.

I can just imagine the many senior citizens throughout the world, especially in large urban settings who live out their day to day routine all by themselves, unnoticed, disconnected, neglected and unloved. They go about the business of their lives without drawing much attention and for so many of them, not even the attention of their families and their children. Many live alone after a spouse has died and they live solitary and perhaps lonely lives filled with memories from the past and not much about their present. They are largely forgotten. Their only real companion may be their thoughts in the ever-present silence of their lives.

My own experience of seeing loneliness in the elderly has been through my mother's entry into a nursing home due to the steady ravages of Dementia which left my father unable to care for her any longer at their home. The first nursing home she was placed in was so bad both environmentally and in the great neglect of the premises and those it housed that she would most definitely not be here now if she were to have remained there. Bluntly, moving her from that home saved her life. What I saw there and what I still see now in her current nursing home is the tremendous loneliness which exists among so many of those who

will live out their lives until they die without any visitation from family or friends, if they have any.

My mother has now been at Fairview Lodge in Whitby for over three years and while the building is dated and worn its replacement is well underway in construction and slated to be completed by September 2014. Despite the tired appearance of the building I have to admit that the care my mother has received has been tremendous. The staff all know her by name and reputation as a "sweetie" especially as she is one of the few on her floor who is still ambulatory. My mother has seven children who can visit her and keep an eye on her care and condition while so many there do not.

I remember one elderly woman who was in her nineties and shared the room with my mother two years ago. She was soft-spoken, quiet and in a wheelchair and could only go to bed or lay down with assistance and an electric lift. On the bare wall on her side of the room was a solitary, somewhat older picture of her and her six children but there was nothing current. Above her bed was the nursing home identification of her place with her name. I have to say that in all the time my mother shared a room with her we never once saw anyone come to visit her – no one. She was living among others but so alone in God's waiting room. She eventually died and I wonder if she had a funeral and if she did, whether anyone came.

This woman is just one of among thousands and millions of people who, like her, live out their lives in the same mundane routine and are so alone and unloved. While they live with the sustenance of a warm bed and three meals and a bath they don't have *someone* who loves them. And yet this silent and brutal agony and neglect of family is seldom spoke of or written about.

Among the short list of tell-tale items Jesus spoke of which would set the stage for the final judgment as to whether a soul was welcomed or exiled from eternal life in heaven, was the line "I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me". (*Matt. 25:36*) Whatever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters in this world – whatever – we do it to Christ. And the response from both the righteous and the unrighteous is the same – "When?"

To the old saying, "Charity begins at home" there is a real need for awareness of those who live among us but are so alone and forgotten. Sometimes they're in our own families or those we see every day but don't really notice. What is needed is not monumental efforts but, as Mother Teresa once said, "doing little things with great love". All people, all of us, need love – someone to touch our hand, look us in the eye and from the heart ask "How are you?", and even more, to do what we can to connect with them on a human level that is genuine and sincere.

I know of a song that speaks of the loneliness of so many of the elderly because up until about three years ago my mother knew it by heart and would sing it. I can't say that I ever heard her sing it before and perhaps she sang it because of what she was seeing all around her, though unable to articulate it. I just hope she didn't feel it herself. The song was made famous by Eddy Arnold and the Everly Brothers in the 60's and recalling it now I can't help but feel that perhaps Pope Francis is on to something as he brings to light those millions upon millions who are forgotten.

Rocking Alone In An Old Rocking Chair

Sitting alone in an old rocking chair
I saw an old mother with silvery hair
She seemed so neglected by those who should care
Rocking alone in an old rocking chair,

Her hands were all callused and wrinkled and old
A life of hard work was the story they told
And I thought of angels as I saw her there
Rocking alone in an old rocking chair.

Bless her old heart, do you think she'd complain
Though life has been bitter she'd live it again
And carry that cross that is more than her share
Rocking alone in an old rocking chair.

It wouldn't take much just to gladden her heart
Just some small remembrance on somebody's part
A letter would brighten her empty life there
Rocking alone in an old rocking chair.

I know some youngsters in an orphans' home
Who'd think they owned heaven if she was their own
They'd never be willing to let her sit there
Rocking alone in an old rocking chair.

I look at her and I think "What a shame"
The ones who forgot her she loves just the same
And I think of angels as I see her there
Rocking alone in an old rocking chair.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE:

- WEEKLY COST OF RUNNING OUR PARISH - \$6755
- **LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION**
- Envelopes, Loose bills and change - \$4631
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAP) - \$1948 (September)
- ➔ **TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK: \$6579**
- ➔ **Deficit in last week's collection: \$176**

MASS INTENTIONS

Tues., Oct. 15- 8:30 am – Rocco & Eugnia Colangailo+
Wed. Oct. 16 – 7:00 pm – Raymond Allen+
Thurs., Oct. 17 – 8:30 am – Mass
Fri., Oct. 18 – 8:30 am – Tony Vonk+
Sat., Oct. 19- 5:00 pm – Charles Grech+
Sun., Oct. 20 - 9am – Ailene Daniels+
Sun., Oct. 20 – 11 am – Mass

**ST. LEO THE GREAT ANNUAL BAZAAR –
Saturday, October 26, 2013**

Our Annual Bazaar will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 am to 3 pm. There will be something for everyone: bake table (donations to be dropped off Friday, Oct. 25), homemade candy, used books and toys, great bargains at Classy Collectibles (items for this will be accepted Monday, Oct. 21 to Friday, Oct. 25 between 9:30 am and 3 pm) in church parking lot, the Penny Social

table (if you have a donation please call Barbara 905-404-2694 or Karen 905-655-4945 before the cutoff date of Oct. 24), raffle prizes, gourmet basket (there will be a donation basket in the church vestibule Sat., Oct. 5) and much more, together with Breakfast & Lunch available to purchase. Looking forward to seeing you there!!!!

AND A REMINDER – If you have Raffle tickets money, kindly return the money and ticket stubs to a member of the Bazaar Committee in the vestibule or in the Collection Plate AS SOON AS POSSIBLE in order that we can update our books. The profit from the raffle is a significant portion of the bazaar income – a big thank you to the donors of the prizes for your support and to the ticket sellers – your hard work is greatly appreciated.

HELP NEEDED!!!!

We need some strong arms to set up and take down tables for the Bazaar: Set up will be Friday, Oct. 25 at 9:30 am. Take down will be at the close of the Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 26. We could also use help with displaying items on each table. If you can help, please contact Barb Regimbal at 905-404-2694.

CATECHIST CORNER

**My four year old has seen the Stations
of the Cross and has asked me directly,
'why are they hurting Jesus?' What
should I say?**

Answer: Focus on Jesus' love.

When my little ones have asked me this same question in the past I have tried to be very honest with them. 'I don't know why people choose to hurt other people, but I do think we can help Jesus. How do you think we can help Jesus?' At this point I am always amazed with the suggestions that come from the mouths of God's little ones. Children know the power of their hugs, kisses, caresses and prayers. And they want to give them to Jesus, because He is hurting and they can see that.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED THIS THANKSGIVING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14.**

Rose of Durham - Baby Bottle Boomerang - PLEASE RETURN THE BABY BOTTLES THIS WEEKEND TO THE BOX ON THE TABLE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE. CHECK OFF YOUR NAME ON THE LIST WHEN BOTTLES RETURNED.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
February 4 – 13th, 2014**

**Contact Patrick Sullivan for more information
905-655-3286 ext. 103
Patrick.sullivan@utoronto.ca**


World Mission Sunday - Every parish across the world will celebrate World Mission Sunday next week. It is a global sign of the Universal Church and Mission. Your prayers and donations will help support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is beginning, where it is new. Please be as generous as possible to the collection for the Propagation of the Faith. Offertory envelopes are available at the back of the church.




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