

St. Leo Social Justice Page

As requested, A copy of the talk for Stewardship of Treasure – 11/17/2024

Finally, I ask that you give me just a few moments of your time. I have been asked to address the Parish Family about the *Annual Stewardship of Treasure Campaign*. I have devoted my entire adult life to service. Service to my Country, my Community and my Church. Thirteen years I served in the U. S Navy and the U S Coast Guard.

As a Franciscan Brother and now as a servant to this parish, I have served the Church for thirty-six years.

My commitment to service has always been through institutions. Institutions with high ideals, but also flawed and limited. Nonetheless, these institutions give structure and needed support to complete the mission – The mission to do good and to save lives.

St. Leo Parish is an institution and as such, is flawed and limited. But, more importantly it is a force for Good.

It is a means by which we gather as a faith community and learn to grow in the love of God and of each other.

It deserves our support, particularly in this era and time when it seems as if the social fabric of our lives is being tattered and society seems so adrift - when meaning and purpose are questioned. St. Leo Parish remains – We remain a force for good.

When this church structure that we occupy was renovated, a symbol of our faith was carved in the concrete flooring below you. That gray rock you see that seems to be coming from the Altar and the Baptismal Font flows outward through the doors and into the community and into the lives of others. This is a symbol of our faith. We are an outward thinking people, a people of faith, a people of Hope. A faith community founded on the Gospel of Christ to be Good News to those in need and to a wounded world.

Yes, St. Leo's is an institution that needs your support, so we can continue to be a force for good! St. Leo Parish is the structure upon which we grow as community, and we give back to the community that is hungry for Hope:

Did you know: 70 children are in faith formation programs, growing in their love for God and Servant Leadership to others

Did you know: Over 1,500 hundred families a week take home nutritious food to prepare meals for those they love

Did you know: Over 1,700 children are feed by our Back -Pack Program during the school year

Did you know: Over 1,600 children have access to good healthy food during the summer through our summer meals program

Did you know: Approximate \$50,000.00 a year, is annually given to those struggling to “Make ends meet” or to keep a job, or home, through our Social Supportive Services Program.

Did you know: Dozens and dozens of those in need of clothing come to our doors and are lovingly cared for by parishioners of this church.

None of this would have been possible without this institution we call St. Leo Parish. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

In conclusion, I ask that you financially support this parish, so we can remain this place where the people of God gather and pray to be that light upon a hill, that is so needed by so many.

Grab a pledge card, check out the information in the bulletin or on our website. Give what you can, love your neighbor and be that light upon a hill!

God Bless You

Rick Samyn, Keeper of Bees