Some Info about the parish:

I have been the pastor of St. Leo the Great, North Fairmount, Ohio for nine years. During that time, there has been a growing population of refugees from Burundi, Africa and an already established parishioner base of immigrants from Guatemala that has also increased significantly during this time.

Originally, the parish was founded by German immigrants and now it is being renewed and reformed by immigrants and refugees from Burundi and Guatemala. We have a few families from the Congo. The Burundians speak Kirundi and are learning English. The Guatemalans speak Spanish and are also learning English.

The parish provides English Classes twice a week. We have a parish nurse with two associates - interpreters for each language. We have a very active and good food pantry that provides outreach to our communities and neighborhoods. We are striving to become one parish together with a diversity of people: Africans, Guatemalans, some African-Americans and Anglo-Americans.

We rely on partnerships with groups and parishes and the collaboration of time, talent and treasure. Our mission is one that everyone can join and it complements the mission statements of other parishes and groups: “We are a welcoming Catholic Community, grounded in Eucharistic Prayer, celebrating our diversity and sharing God's love through ministries of serving and being present in our urban neighborhoods, while focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.”

Some info about me: Priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for 37 years. Pastor of St. Leo the Great for nine years. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio (Reading). I have a degree (MA) in Scripture from the Athenaeum of Ohio and an MA in Applied Spirituality from the University of San Francisco. I am thoroughly enjoying being somewhat of a “local missionary” and being a pastor for the good people of St. Leo the Great and extending the Lord's welcome to anyone and everyone who comes to our doorsteps.