

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with heartfelt gratitude and love that I am writing to you. After much prayer, consultation and reflection, I have decided to retire as your pastor. It has been a wonderful twenty-year relationship that will not end with my departure from the parish sometime during the summer.

I will never forget the first weekend in June of 1999 when I was introduced to you as your pastor. Providentially, it was the Feast of Corpus Christi. During my homily, I shared with you that I was your brother, Leo; but I acknowledged that when you looked at me, you probably didn't think of me in that way. I admitted that I didn't think of my siblings: David, Deborah and Dana, when I looked into your faces. I told you that you were in fact my sisters and brothers, and my hope was that over time we would become the parish family that God created us to be.

Our parish has changed during these twenty years, which is to be expected. But the desire to create a parish family has been our continual focus and goal. We have created what many visitors call a warm and welcoming community. That will not change with my retirement because you are the family of Corpus Christi!

Thank you for welcoming me into the parish twenty years ago. Keep me in your prayers and I will pray for you everyday of my life.

**Love,
Fr. Leo**