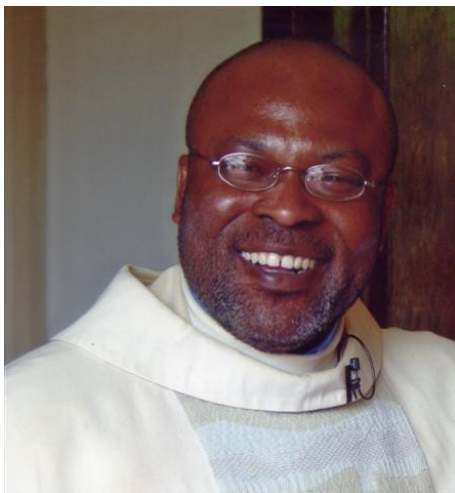


# Priest of the Week

Leonard,, “Leo” Ahanotu was born on January 13, 1965, in Nigeria, the eldest of eleven children in a Catholic family. Giving his life to Christ as a priest would lead him to many different places to serve in a variety of settings. As a young man he attended a mission seminary in his home country. This experience also led him to enter a religious community of priests, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit Fathers. Ordained on July 17, 1994, at the age of 29, he first served in parishes and schools in Nigeria and in New Guinea.



**Fr. Leonard Ahanotu, C.S.S.P.  
Parish Priest**

Fr. Leo then came to the United States to continue his education, earning a bachelors degree in philosophy and a master’s degree in theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Coming to the Diocese of Tulsa he served as the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Krebs and St. Paul Parish in Eufaula while earning a masters in educational psychology at East Central Oklahoma State University. In July 2009 he was transferred at St. Clement Parish in Bixby to be the pastor.

With his experience as a missionary, Fr. Leo is comfortable working and socializing with people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. He enjoys discussing theological and spiritual issues, as well as current social events. He also loves sports. Fr. Leo speaks his native Ibo dialect from Nigeria, Tok Pisin, a dialect in Paupua New Guinea, and English. He is currently learning Spanish and, as he says, the “Okie” dialect of American English.

His guiding principle as a priest is from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, 1:21: “For to me life is Christ, and death is gain”.