



Summer 2015



The Harvester

Newsletter from
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

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Hello,

The flowers are blooming, the grass is really growing, the fields have been plowed, and we have celebrated Easter with five baptisms at the Vigil.

Pour your cup of coffee or glass of lemonade and see what has been happening and what is going on this summer in the parish, such as the Blue Ribbon Restaurant and the parish picnic in August, and our golf outing in September. .

Enjoy the sunshine and hope to share Eucharist and other parish activities with you.



Garden News ...

On May 1st, a busload of students from the Medina Career Center embarked upon a day-long field trip. The garden was tilled and rocks gathered. Tomato cages were built. All the equipment was serviced and readied for work. Several dead trees were cut down and split for firewood. The brush became one of "FATHER JOHN's BONFIRES." They returned to school with full tummies..., Hamburgers, baked beans and lots of desserts. (Thanks, Keller Meats for the Italian sausage.) The biggest reward was having served the Community and learning at the same time.

A Garden Volunteer meeting was held and plots were assigned. Workers are needed to plant - projected date is May 30th. (Rain date is June 6th). Ongoing maintenance and harvesters are needed. There are sign up sheets at all sites or call Carol for details. (330-667-2573) Once again, RICHARDSON FARMS are donating the plants. Be sure to patronize them and say THANK YOU!



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Youth Ministry Office

On February 22nd, our Youth of the parish gathered together for Mass at the 5 p.m. Mass in Seville. From smallest to tallest, each of our young people served as lectors, greeters, gift bearers, servers, and even the choir! Afterwards, we shared a pizza party and watched a family film. It was a great way to involve our younger parishioners and their families.



Through the generous donations of the Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope campaign, our youth office was able to secure funding for our college/post high school care packages. We are able to send packages 3 to 4 times a year to our young adults of the parish not only those in college, but also in religious life, and post high school. We pass on information such as a Harvester, Diocesan activities, or faith items, but we are now able to share movies with Christian themes, books, music, and devotional items. This is an ongoing fund that will provide for this necessary ministry. The youth office is always accepting items to be sent. And we provide this ministry free of charge! If you would like your son, daughter, grandchild, etc. to be added to our list it is done on a rolling basis and can join anytime. Please call the parish office with your child's address.



(A view of our media library for our young adults!)

On May 24th, OLHC celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for 13 teens and 5 adults. The Most Reverend Bishop Roger Gries was our celebrant. Please pray for our Confirmandi as they continue their faith journey.

- Jessica Johnson
- Domenico LaBondano
- Graham Keipert
- Kellyanne Terwilliger
- Grace Terwilliger
- Josh Ribley
- Alexa Olic
- Adelyn Smith
- Magdalena Wallace
- Sophia Reed
- Mary Lenk
- Alexander Jervis
- Marshall Heil
- Camille Hughes (prepared at OLHC and Confirmed at St. Colette's)
- Kelsen Lewarchick (prepared at OLHC and Confirmed at St. Colette's)
- and adults:*
- Michele Smith
- Melisa Olic
- Deborah Donoughe
- Kaitlin Duncan
- Ashlyn Smith

This November, our parish youth ministry will once again be participating in National Catholic Youth Conference held in Indianapolis, IN. Every other year, over 30,000 teens, youth ministers, religious, and lay leaders gather for

three days of prayer, daily Mass, workshops, Christian music, and more! It is a wonderful opportunity for the youth of our parish to grow and discover their faith in an atmosphere that is welcoming and loving. This year the following will be attending the conference, please pray for and encourage them on this journey!

Teens:

- Anne Chech
- Sophia Reed
- Emma Reed
- Charlie Reed
- Grace Winrod
- Claudia Lorenz

Young Adult: Sarah Lorenz

- Adults:* Father John,
- Paula Winrod,
- Louise Reed,
- and
- Jackie Prosak.



“Not Farewell, But See You Later” ...

“It has been six years since I started at OLHC as a young youth minister. Over the years, relationships have grown and our ministry has grown. It was a difficult decision to leave but it is one that is best for my family. I will serve as DRE/Youth Minister at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elyria, OH, which is my home parish. As I will be right down the road, I am always available for counsel and will still be coordinating and attending the High School NCYC trip this year.

I will miss the friendships of my fellow catechists, volunteers, and aides, and families. The effort they put forth to serve the youth of our parish even though they have families and jobs is invaluable. Not only do these people teach but they inspire with their creativity and gifts. It has always been my personal mission when it comes to youth is to love them first and teach them second. It is a blessing to be able to

Youth Ministry Office

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work with the children of our parish guiding them in their Catholic faith, showing them the beauty of creation, and bringing them closer to their families and God.

Thank you to Father Ron, Father John, Sandy, Barb and everyone of the staff for supporting our ministry, the guidance, and the genuine friendship. Thank you for giving a young adult a chance to grow in her faith and see the difference youth ministry makes in a community. Our Lady Help of Christians has always been a place of welcome and a family atmosphere. As such a family, know that I will always keep everyone I've met in my heart and in my prayers. As we are one, Catholic, apostolic church, I truly hope that you will pray for me and our new youth coordinator. Continue to support the good things here at OLHC and remember that God is good, all the time!"

...Jackie Prosak



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION...

Parishioner, Connie Ebaugh is honored...

The Wayne, Ashland and Medina Counties Catholic Commission honored Our Lady Help of Christians parishioner Connie Ebaugh with the 2015 Faithful Servant Award. She and Rev. Robert F. Wenz, retired Parochial Vicar from St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick, were honored at the 28th annual Pope John Paul II Proclaimer of Justice Gala Dinner and Silent Auction which was held on April 18, 2015 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Medina.

The award that Connie received is the Faithful Servant Award and is presented to a person or organization that exemplifies a servant-leadership style and who lives out the Gospel mission to care for others, including the lost and forgotten.

They were recognized for their altruism and commitment to social justice. The teachings of the Church on social justice have served as a foundation for Connie, who has shown consistent respect for the dignity of all people in multiple and a variety of ministries and outreach programs over the years. She has coordinated Adopt-A-Family ministry which provides for families in need, particularly children at Christmas, Easter and on their birthdays. She is also involved in many other volunteer activities including attending to the spiritual needs of residents at a local nursing home; visiting and ministering to those in the Medina County Jail, is a GED instructor, distributes food at the parish food pantry and teaches in Our Lady Help of Christian parish faith formation programs.

Connie commented that "it is extremely humbling to be recognized in this way. All I can say is 'to God be the glory,'" and, "I've had a wonderfully blessed life, filled with lots and lots of love, and paradigm parents, who were the most loving and giving people, who modeled loving your neighbor as yourself. I'm just sharing that love with others in any way I can because love has no boundaries – everyone is included."

Again, **CONGRATULATIONS,**
Connie

*(Excerpts from Akron Beacon
Journal, April 13, 2015)*



From the Communities...

Nova News ...

In order for the parishioners of Jesus The Good Shepherd, Nova Community to become more acquainted with each other, interviews with members and families have been conducted obtaining basic noninvasive information they are willing to share. The information shared will enable other members to find common interests in each other. To recognize each family, a photo is taken and posted with the interview on a bulletin board in the basement social area.

During Lent a "Quick Journey through the Bible" a Bible timeline study group had been held every Sunday at 9 A.M. prior to Mass with the last class finishing on Palm Sunday.

It wasn't planned, but on several occasions the readings during Mass coincided with what had been discussed during the study that morning.

Both activities were well received.

LITCHFIELD ACTIVITIES...

Litchfield Community is having their annual Ice Cream Social on the Litchfield Circle on July 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The social is in conjunction with the Litchfield Band. There will be hot dogs, desserts, beverages, popcorn and ICE CREAM. All communities are invited and welcome.

All are welcome for strawberries after Masses on June 6 and June 7 as well as Pancakes after Mass on June 21.





Outreach News



The Outreach group met in April. The biggest news shared was that we have now joined the Akron-Canton Food Bank. The sad news is that we had to leave Second Harvest Food Bank in Lorain, which we had been a part of for many years. We are not permitted to belong to two food banks. The good news is that now, since we are a part of a Food Bank that serves Medina County, we are eligible for USDA and OFP (Federal and State) commodities. This is a good move for us. Our food is now delivered free of charge by FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY. I am sure you have seen their delivery truck around Medina. They are funded by donations and grants and actually deliver to 23 agencies within Medina County. We are ever so grateful for their help in feeding our growing number of clients.



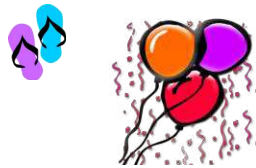
We have two new volunteers in our group. That is wonderful! We welcome anyone wanting to join us. Please contact Pat Vujevich if you are interested at (330) 416-3894 or contact Sandy Lynn at the parish office. We are very grateful for the continued help of all of our volunteers. They are very dedicated to serving our clients with cheery smiles and friendly words of encouragement.

The Garden in Litchfield continues to provide our clients with fresh produce available on the days that our pantry is open. Our clients are very happy to receive the freshly picked vegetables. Many thanks to all of the gardeners!

Just a reminder that we will again celebrate Christmas in July for our pantry needs. We will be asking for donations of paper products, soaps, laundry detergents, etc. These are items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. Any help you can provide in this regard will be most appreciated.

In August we will be asking for donations of school supplies as children prepare to return to school. Schools open again in mid-August, therefore supplies will be needed in early August. We will include a list of supplies in summer bulletins.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity to our Outreach Program. We exist because of the monetary donations of our parishioners. God Bless You!



WELCOME

New Parishioners:

Richard & Maryann Barbera
 Richard & Dorothy Dudas
 Timothy Fueghein
 George & Joyce Kleman
 Tiffany Sexton
 Joanne Skadra
 Ann Marie Skadra
 John A. Zambo
 Gary Edwards
 Jennifer Frey
 Martin & Nicole Kerr
 Jacob (Jake) Tyree
 Carol & Bernard Lachendro
 John & Cynthia Downs
 Michael & Mary Mennell



Getting to know ...

Paula Winrod (Our Parish Secretary)



Paula and her husband Mark and two daughters Grace and Faith live in Seville and attend Mass at our Seville site. Traveling with Paula and learning how she and her family came to reside in our Parish is a very interesting journey indeed.

We begin our travels and learning more about Paula and her family with her High School years in Mantua, OH where she graduated in 1984. She, her parents, sister and brother attended St. Joseph's in Mantua where she and her sister looked forward to the annual Ox Roast Fair and working as waitresses during this event. Mantua was a small and friendly community just like that of Seville. A rural community that Paula described as being a great area to grow up in with open farm lands, a small, friendly town where most residents knew one another and cared for those around them. Paula was a member of her High School Color Guard, joined Brownies and Girl Scouts, took guitar lessons and worked on a local farm in Hiram where she and her parents helped a local farmer and his wife with farm chores. She learned from an early age to love the land and God's creatures and also the responsibility we have in caring for animals and helping those needing assistance. The work was hard like bailing hay, feeding chickens, but oh so beautiful as reflected in the birth of a young calf that became a pet to her.

Paula, like all of us, learned the responsibility of needing a job and

Getting to Know...

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worked at a printing ink company as a secretary, where she first met her future husband as they remained friends over a 10 year span of time before marrying. She also worked at Mack Industries, where she met and worked with Eric Martin also from our Parish, at Jenny Craig and for her husband's company where with each job she had secretarial and bookkeeping responsibilities.

When first married she and Mark lived in Medina in a home they built that Paula said had everything they wanted until one day she received a life changing call from Mark in Seville. Mark was working on a repossessed house and called Paula saying "I think we need to buy this home and move to Seville". Once Paula saw the house she looked at Mark and said "really"? Well long story short is they bought the house, gutted and reworked the entire interior of the home and all of this while Paula was pregnant with her second child. Obviously it was a time she will never forget, and dare I say she will not let Mark ever forget, but she and her family love the home with its 3 acres and 2 goats, 11 chickens, 8 rabbits, numerous barn cats and a dog.

Initially Paula and her family attended Holy Martyrs in Medina. She was asked by several parishioners who they knew, "why aren't you attending Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians in Seville"? She told them she never knew it was there and after hearing about it, it took another two years to find it! She remembers her first Mass in Seville with Fr. Ron and how warm and friendly and family-oriented the entire congregation was and how thereafter Fr. Dan and Fr. Ned and parishioners always remembered Paula and her family. Now Paula, Mark, Grace and Faith all participate at Mass from being the gift family to being a Coordinator, Servers, Commentators, Lectors and Ushers.

From talking with Paula one learns very early on that she absolutely loves her job at OLHC. There are the humorous moments with Sandy Lynn and the Xerox copier, Barb Manges and the shredder (no details available), Fr. John and his music on the harmonica, piano and violin (just to name a few) as well as all of the callers, parishioners, administrative and pastoral staff members whom she comes into contact with on any given day.

Paula has been especially inspired by the fantastic job done by the Parish Outreach program and the people our Parish helps in ways that cannot be fully appreciated until one sees the faces of those receiving food or Christmas packages or, as in a recent case, when Outreach was able to help a homeless man and his young daughter who had been sleeping in their car during this cold weather with some lodging and food from the Pantry; all of this possible only through the generosity of our parishioners. One hope that Paula has is that our Parish will continue to support this and all other assistance programs and efforts for as long as there are people in need.

Paula hopes that she will be able to remain at this job for a long, long time. A job that gives her so much pleasure and diversity. She said that one cannot imagine all of the work that goes on each and every day behind the scenes and the constant, never ending demands placed on Fr. Ron and his staff; it is so much more than just that of conducting the weekly Masses, it is absolutely unbelievable.

Paula, I think we all hope that you will stay for a long, long time after spending some time with you and getting to know you better.

Interview by Gary Harris



OLHC Prayer Chain

Would you like prayers for a family member, friend, or neighbor? OLHC has a prayer chain with dedicated individuals who take time out of their day to support and pray for the needs of others. To request a prayer, contact Judie Shields at 330.722.2585 or Joan Groll at 330.769.3726; Internet, tfjcgroll@yahoo.com. When using email, please type **Prayer Request** on the Subject line.

OLHC Parish Website...

FYI ~ Anyone that takes picture at our parish events, you can send them for inclusion on the website directly to Kathy Gies at ktqlts2008@gmail.com

Also... The Bernadette Guild and other parish groups can send your event information to Kathy for posting on the website.

Garden News ...



Cont'd from Page 1

In keeping with Pope Francis' recent Encyclical, he has charged us to be good stewards of God's Creations. The Social Justice Commission will be providing ongoing information for each of us to embark upon a step-by-step formula for becoming "GREEN" and caretakers of Mother Earth. Environmental stewardship is a Christian responsibility. Please do NOT leave this task for someone else to do. All of God's Creation is sacred and needs to be preserved for future generations.

We will be addressing the "five R's: Reduce, Reuse, Refuse, Recycle and Rot". There has already been a bulletin insert advising ways to DEPLASTICIZE your life. Forthcoming will be helpful hints on ways to start. Consider it as a quest for healthier living for future generations of humans, animals, plants and for the earth, and the oceans and lakes of the world. **BECOME INVOLVED!!!**

The Vine Grower

A Homily from Fr. Ron

--I don't know very much about tending to grapevines – about growing them, pruning them, and otherwise cultivating them. In the past that hasn't prevented me from elaborating on the image Jesus uses in today's gospel to describe the Father's relationship to Jesus and his disciples.

Quite frankly, my take on it was rather rough and tumble. I pictured the vine grower working his way through the vineyard annoyed by the dead branches. He was having a field day lopping off the dead branches and unproductive stems. It was *"shape up or ship out"* approach.

--More recently a little background reading on vine dressing helped me see how misguided I had been. The daily pruning and vine dressing isn't anything like the aggressive cutting and snapping I had thought it to be; quite the contrary.

A good vine dresser approaches the task with extraordinary care and delicacy. He inspects each branch, gently cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. He knows that cutting too much or too little will deprive the vine of its distinctive character.

He measures every cut and carefully prunes back only the diseased portion of the branch. His purpose is to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. Far from being violent with the vine, he is extremely tender.

More experienced hearers of this gospel passage understand that this is a year-long task and that grapes are more than an annual crop. The vines will remain with him for decades. He comes to know each vine in a personal way; how it is faring year to year; what it needs to thrive, to remain healthy.

--This parable offers a profound insight into the Christian life and, when the metaphor is properly applied, carries nothing at all like a *"shape up or ship out"* message. Instead it is a warm, encouraging appeal for followers of Jesus, who in relationship to Jesus are like branches on a vine, to remain connected with him.

Apart from our union with Christ we are like dead branches, already fallen away and incapable of bearing fruit. The vine dresser simply clears such branches out. But as long as we remain united to the vine (*to Christ*) we are the focus of the vine dresser's insightful attention and tender care. And this is what is so important for our Christian way of life.

--As branches we are the fruit-producing parts of the vine. It is in and through us that the spirit of the risen Christ finds expression and flourishes. It is in and through us that the loving, forgiving, just, merciful, and peaceful spirit of the risen Christ takes effect in the world.

But like branches on the vine, we are in the process of development, subject not only to growth but to the stunting influences of harsh weather, insects, and disease. As a result some of the fruit we produce can become bitter, aspects of our lives can atrophy and yield only a withered fruit.

-- If in certain respects we show signs of bitter, unforgiving hearts, act in unforgiving and vengeful ways, bring our influence to bear on others unjustly, infect our relationships and despoil the earth with toxic self-centeredness, then we are in need of careful pruning not the axe of condemnation.

This is where God the vine grower comes into the picture on a daily, yearly, and decades-long basis. To the extent that we remain in Christ, God knows us as branches on the vine in a most intimate and personal way.

God knows our distinctive characteristics, our strengths, and our weaknesses. Upon careful inspection God knows where to trim, how much to trim, when to trim. Too extensive a cut and we might lose a good measure of our Christian vitality; too little trimming and the disease may continue to spread or the fruit produced be worthless.

--This is not an angry, damning action by which God violently seeks to hack off our shortcomings and failures; but rather a gentle, loving, and concerned action by which God seeks to promote our healthy growth; to enable us to draw life and produce good fruit from our union with Christ as branches on the vine.

It's with that image in mind that Jesus invites us to assess our relationship to God as people of faith who are baptized and fully initiated into a vital, productive communion with Christ and through him with one another. God the vine dresser wants only for us to bring forth the yield he knows we are capable of achieving. In no way does God want to see us die on the vine.

--Understanding God's relationship to us in this way by virtue of our relationship to Christ helps keep the growing pains we experience as disciples in perspective.

Faced with our sins and failures we need not be driven by fear to hide from God but rather to expose ourselves fully to him for pruning; the kind of loving, measured trimming and clipping we need to be ever more fruitful.

--This image also reminds us of our connection to each other as branches on the vine. Confronted by attitudes and behavior in others that we cannot countenance, our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, get rid of it.

We see the offending party or parties as dead, fit only to be trashed, rather than in need of careful pruning --the tough yet loving intervention that seeks healing and growth; a limited, well-intentioned surgical procedure not an amputation.

The Vine Grower

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For reflection: How do I specifically go about maintaining a vital link with Christ so as to remain in him? Do I try to do this on my own terms or on Christ's terms by gathering regularly in worship with others in his name, recognizing him in the hungry and thirsty, serving others as he served them?

What self-centered tendencies need to be pruned away in my life so my claim to discipleship might give rise to a greater abundance of spiritual and physical works of mercy, forgiveness, and peace? Do I turn myself over to the care and love of God in this regard or hide from him? How do I approach others in their brokenness – with aggressive chain-saw-like, lumberjack judgments or with the circumspect attention and tender care of a vine dresser?



“THE SWITCH” (An Easter Miracle)

It was late-March and lambing season was in full swing at HADO-BAR FARM. When I went to the barn early one morning to check the still-pregnant ewes, I saw one of them standing in a dark corner as far away from the other ewes as she could get. She had a pre-occupied, pained look on her face. It was obvious she was going into labor. I squinted in the dim light to read the number on her eartag. She was #50 --- CYPRESS --- a "maiden" ewe. This would be her first lambing. I cancelled my plans for that day and prayed that her labor would progress swiftly and end successfully with the safe delivery of the twin lambs she was carrying.

Throughout that chilly early-Spring day, I checked CYPRESS every hour or so, but, her labor was definitely *not* progressing swiftly. By early evening, she was still just wandering around the lambing pen with her tail sticking straight out behind her. Every now and then, she'd paw halfheartedly at the straw on the floor, lie down for a minute or two, then pull herself to her feet and resume her aimless wandering. She hadn't even begun to have visible contractions, yet. As I watched her wander around the pen, I realized I would not, most likely, be getting to bed at a reasonable hour that night.

I continued checking CYPRESS frequently throughout that evening. Finally, at 9:30 p.m., I saw her having contractions! I stayed in the barn for almost an hour, watching and waiting, before I needed to go back to the house to warm up. It was 10:30 p.m. by then --- I longed to be snuggled in my warm bed. After a warming cup of tea, I headed back out to the cold barn, knowing that a "good shepherd" cares for the sheep no matter the temperature or the time of day.

CYPRESS was becoming more agitated and anxious as her labor progressed. At last, at 11:30 p.m., she went down on the deeply-bedded floor and began pushing, *hard*. My pulse quickened as I donned vinyl gloves and eagerly awaited the arrival of the first lamb ... and waited ... and waited. Excitement gave way to concern. After pushing so hard for so long (over 30 minutes, by then), she should have produced *something!* I was entering the pen to attempt to assist the birth when, with a Herculean effort and loud "vocalization," CYPRESS delivered her first lamb! She jumped to her feet and began to clean and stimulate the newborn, "nicking" non-stop as she did so, "Hello, hello! I'm your mother! Welcome to the world! You're beautiful ... and you're *mine!* Get up! Get up!" Within a few minutes, the lamb was on its feet and tottering toward its first meal. I smiled and breathed a sigh of relief --- all was well. CYPRESS was doing a good job as a first-time mother

The second lamb in a set of twins usually arrives within minutes of the first, so I waited ... and waited ... and waited. It was well after midnight by then and I was getting cold, but I was reluctant to leave CYPRESS for fear that something was wrong. At last, after "fussing" with her firstborn lamb for over an hour, she delivered her second lamb. As with her firstborn, CYPRESS jumped to her feet and looked at her newborn lamb, but, instead of welcoming it, she backed away, seemingly shocked and horrified by the sight. The lamb sneezed, shook its head, and called for its mother. CYPRESS answered, but refused to approach the lamb. The newborn continued calling to its mother as it dragged itself through the deep straw toward her. The lamb was strong and healthy but, for some reason, CYPRESS had decided she didn't want it. She turned and walked away from her newborn with her firstborn lamb at her side.

"Oh, no you don't!" I said, aloud, as I walked into the pen. I swiftly, but gently, scooped the firstborn lamb into my arms and carried it out of the pen. CYPRESS began searching frantically for her "lost" lamb, calling loudly as she sniffed and searched every corner of the

The Switch

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lambing pen. Finally, she ran back to the place she delivered both of her lambs and followed the "scent trail" to the second-born lamb which was still struggling in the deep straw. She tentatively sniffed the lamb and, after several moments of indecision, began to "nicker" softly. After the lamb struggled to its feet and found its way to its first meal, I breathed a sigh a relief and returned the firstborn lamb to the pen. CYPRESS was relieved to have "found" her firstborn lamb, at last! I stayed in the barn until I felt sure that CYPRESS had accepted both lambs as her own, then, cold and exhausted, I commended CYPRESS and her lambs to the care of the Good Shepherd, turned off the lights and left the barn. It was 2:30 a.m.

Four days after CYPRESS had her twins (I named them CHILI and CHINA), ROSE, #60, another "maiden" ewe, successfully and uneventfully (thank God!) delivered a beautiful, healthy set of twins! ROSE was a good mother --- her lambs thrived.

A week after CYPRESS' lambs had been born, I noticed that they were quite thin and still small, despite my having seen them nursing greedily every time I was in the barn checking the ewes and lambs. The little lambs looked miserable so I attempted to feed them a special lamb milk replacement supplement to give them a nutritional "boost." However, despite my best efforts, neither lamb would accept the supplement. Examination of CYPRESS and her lambs by a veterinarian revealed that CYPRESS had not "let down" her milk so the lambs were slowly starving to death. The veterinarian, too, tried to feed the lambs the supplement formula, but the lambs refused to suck from the bottle. I couldn't give the lambs to another ewe because, unless there is a mix-up when two or more ewes are delivering lambs at the same time, a ewe will accept and feed *only* her own offspring. Without food, CHILI and CHINA would surely die. As I trudged slowly back to the house, my prayer was a desperate plea to the Good Shepherd for guidance and mercy.

After doing evening chores that day, I stood watching the ewes contently munching hay while their lambs (except for CIDLI and CHINA) romped and raced around in the spacious lambing pen. My heart was heavy as I contemplated the fate of CYPRESS' twins. Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw CHINA totter toward a ewe whose head was buried in the hay-filled manger. The starving lamb weakly punched the ewe's udder with her tiny nose in an instinctual effort to signal the release of nourishing milk. The lamb began to nurse. The ewe pulled her head out of the manger, turned and

sniffed the lamb to verify the lamb's identity. Suddenly, I realized that the ewe "checking-out" CHINA was ROSE, #60. CHINA was *not* her lamb! I braced myself for the forceful "head-butt" ROSE would use to knock CHINA away from her udder. What happened next made me question my sanity for more than a moment --- ROSE resumed munching hay while CHINA continued to nurse! I was astonished when CHILI, too, tottered over to ROSE and began to nurse without objection from the ewe! What was happening here? How could ROSE raise/our lambs --- her own twins and CYPRESS', as well? A moment later, I heard a ewe "call" her lambs to her for feeding. Two lambs scampered to the ewe, punched her udder forcefully, and began nursing noisily. I watched the lambs nursing, relieved that, except for CHILI and CHINA, all the lambs were well-fed and thriving. For no particular reason, I checked the number on that contented ewe's eartag --- it was #50. CYPRESS was feeding lambs that were not her own! Whose lambs were they and why were they nursing a ewe other than their own mother? Why was CYPRESS *allowing* lambs other than her own to feed from her? I looked closely at the lambs pressed against CYPRESS and realized they were ROSE's thriving twins! My pulse quickened --- What was happening here? I'd never before witnessed two ewes so completely and calmly "switch" lambs so long after birth (by then, CYPRESS' lambs were eight days old; ROSE's were four days old)! Sheep are "hard-wired" by Nature to strongly bond with and nurse *only* the lambs they give birth to. What had prompted CYPRESS and ROSE to switch lambs?

In the days following "the switch," I watched CYPRESS and ROSE closely for signs of rejection of the lambs that were not their own, but, on Easter Sunday morning, as I watched the lambs (including CHILI and CHINA) "ga-boinging" around the lambing pen while their weary mothers munched hay, I realized "The Switch" was permanent. ROSE was, indeed, nursing and nurturing CYPRESS' twins while ROSE's lambs continued to thrive in the care of their "adopted" mother, CYPRESS. Without ROSE's intervention, CHILI and CHINA would have died. I pondered God's mysterious ways, as I watched the ewes and lambs. Surely, our Good Shepherd had heard my desperate prayer for those starving lambs, as well as for myself, and answered with an Easter Miracle that saved us ... ALL!

From Judy Bigham, Nova



Chili 1



Chili 2



BLUE RIBBON RESTAURANT

Monday, August 3 thru Sunday, August 9, 2015

Do you enjoy helping the church? Do you enjoy participating in community building?
Do you enjoy being community with the entire parish? Do you enjoy a little labor to reap huge rewards?
Well, do we have another opportunity for you!! Not to mention, a GREAT NEED OF OURS!
Consider joining us.

For those of you who don't know what The Blue Ribbon Restaurant is, let me give you a brief overview.

The Blue Ribbon Restaurant is a full restaurant run in the community center during the Medina County Fair. We have a full menu that is consistent every day, as well as every year. We have a core team that is committed to having at least two of its members being there at all times of operation to keep consistency and deal with any concerns that may arise. The fun begins with signing up at church in a position you feel like doing. Some sign up as a family, while many sign up with their friends, others make friends while working alongside of other OLHC members and friends.

Sign-ups are divided into 3 shifts:

Breakfast-7:30-11:30 am * Lunch 11:30-4:30 pm * Dinner 4:30-9:00 pm

One may sign up for any time/times or days that fit into their schedule, although we accept and are flexible with just showing up. We are always grateful for that, although the not knowing if we have enough help is also very stressful, so signing up and committing is most desired. Helpers are also needed for prepping the veggies on Friday, July 31, as well as moving required equipment to the Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 1, 2015.

What is involved with committing you ask? Well, our tasks are: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

- **PREPPING** for the next day or later in the day
- **COOKING** always with a core committee member, not alone to figure it out
- **SERVING** front line customers
- **COFFEE/ TEA MAKER**
- **SALAD and PIES** washing peeling of veg. and assembling salads and serving pies
- **RUNNER** keeping pies, salads, etc. placed in the front serving line
- **TABLE WIPERS**
- **DISH WASHER** pots and utensils mostly
- **CASHIER**
- **HOT DOG AND BURRITO MAKER**



Some of the menu consists of: pancakes, sausage and eggs
Swiss steak, chicken, cabbage rolls, burritos, vegetables, stuffing, salads, hot dogs, pies, ice cream & drinks

**Look for sign-up sheets around the beginning of July.
This is one of our LARGEST FUND RAISERS OF THE YEAR**

We continue to appreciate the donations of veggies for the salads from growers and monetary donations for sponsor a pie which happens in June/July.

The Restaurant has raised much needed funds each year- but even with our dedicated core committee members who reserve days, and often times the entire week, to this fund raiser/community builder, it is not possible to operate without dedicated volunteers who come out to the fair and share their time, talent, spirit and fun! We had such a wonderful response to this informational page last year that we hope it will generate more enthusiasm and more new faces this year.

Some quotes I remember hearing after volunteering with us at the fair: *"We have to keep moving' and be active or we'll lose it"* (an elderly devoted dish washer) *"It was so much fun, especially working, laughing and enjoying God's spirit with and alongside our parishioners we don't normally see."* (Parishioner) *"It runs like a well-greased wheel"* (one of our priests) -and we all agree

On behalf of the Core Committee of the Blue Ribbon Restaurant, we sincerely hope to see you at the Fair to share the Love of God with one another, as well as with our greater Medina Community, with fun in our labor of love and for the good of our parish.



PICNIC!

*PARISH PICNIC
August 30, 2015
At Litchfield
2:00 – 6:00 p.m.*

Come one, come all to this year's Parish Family picnic scheduled for *Sunday, August 30, 2015 from 2:00 - 6:00 PM.* in Litchfield. There will be activities for children of all ages from 1 to 99. A surprise or two may also await those who attend as we strive to make this a fun-filled day for all who attend. Picnickers can also see the Parish Garden and maybe even pick a weed or two as a family or as an individual as we grow food to help feed the needy in our Community.

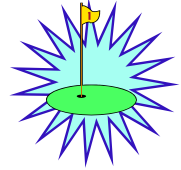
All those attending are asked to bring enough food to feed themselves and/or their families and one favorite dish or dessert to share with others.

We are in need of Parishioners who can help set-up on Saturday, August 29th at 9:00 a.m. in Litchfield; all ages are welcome to assist as we never turn-down any offers of help. Others wishing to volunteer their time and talent are encouraged to contact Fr. John through the Parish Office at 330-722-1180.





Our Lady Help of Christians Golf Outing



Saturday, September 19, 2015

Hawk's Nest Golf Club
2800 E. Pleasant Home Rd. & Route 3, Creston (330-435-4611)

*Cost: \$75/person (includes lunch, beverages, golf, cart & dinner)
Dinner Only: Steak \$40.00/person or Chicken \$35/person
Lunch: Anytime
First Tee Time: 11:00 a.m.
Dinner: 5:00 p.m.

Corporate/Individual Sponsored Holes only \$50
Donations Welcome!

Please complete the reservation form below, detach & mail to:

Bob Verhoff
40849 Biggs Rd.
Lagrange, OH 44050

Make Checks Payable to Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

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RESERVATION FORM

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____

This Reservation Covers the Following Individuals:

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 1. _____ | Steak or Chicken _____ |
| 2. _____ | Steak or Chicken _____ |
| 3. _____ | Steak or Chicken _____ |
| 4. _____ | Steak or Chicken _____ |

We would like to sponsor _____ hole(s).

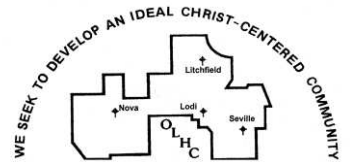
Enclosed is \$ _____ for the reservation and/or hole sponsorship.

*Proceeds go to Our Lady Help of Christians Parish. For More Information on this event, please contact Bob Verhoff at raverhoff1@gmail.com.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
9608 Norwalk Rd.
Litchfield, OH 44253

Non-Profit
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Medina, OH 44256
Permit No. 333

Pastor: Rev. Ronald J. Bryda; **Parochial Vicar:** Rev. John Mullee
Deacons: Mr. John Buda (retired), Mr. Michael Jervis, Sr.
Pastoral Associate: Sandra J. Lynn
Coordinator of Faith Formation / Youth Minister: Jackie Prosak
Associate Coordinator of Faith Formation: Barbara Manges
Parish Administrative Assistant: Paula Winrod
Parish Administration Office: 9608 Norwalk Rd., Litchfield, Ohio 44253
Phone: (330) 722-1180 **Fax:** (330) 723-5891
Email: olhc1976@hotmail.com
Web: <http://www.olhc-parish.com>



★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH
39 years

