



The Harvester

Newsletter from
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

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SURPRISE!

We have a new look to an old friend...

The mailman has delivered the Harvester that for many years has looked like a small booklet. We all anticipated receiving it and sitting with a cup of coffee or tea to glance through it and then return to read it in depth. Well, none of that anticipation will be lost. In fact it may even be enhanced.

With the new format, we hope to achieve the following:

1. Increased "user friendly" appearance.
2. Detailed in-depth informational articles.
3. Increased attention of our homebound, newcomers, current and past parishioners, or those who are out of town for a short time.
4. Revised and more efficient mailing format.

In addition to the "new" appearance, we hope to have participation from the various commissions, activities, councils, etc. If you have a special project that your commission is involved with, tell us about it. If you want to share information you have obtained in researching a topic relevant to the parish (ex. Social Justice), share it with us. If your worship community holds an event, please let us know about it so our other communities can support it.

Please watch for Harvester deadlines in the weekly bulletin so that your suggested items can be included in our publication of the Harvester. We reserve the right to edit all articles for content and length.

"THE GATHERING"

Since March of 2006, a group of parishioners have been meeting to discuss adult faith formation. These conversations, now known as "The Gathering", have led to the discovery that as we mature into adult Christians, we need to consider the following six content areas or dimensions of our faith: **Knowledge of the Faith; Liturgical Life; Moral Formation; Prayer; communal Life; and Missionary Spirit.**

We are now in the process of assessing and evaluating parish efforts, the quality and quantity of event, the fruitfulness, explicitness, and transforming effect on us as individuals. After determining whether or not an event or activity has had a strong effect, we hope to enhance our efforts in certain areas.

All parishioners are invited to attend "The Gathering." We know that everyone cannot attend all meetings but come when you can. Your presence will assist the core group in keeping a fresh perspective regarding the faith formation needs of our parishioners in the above-mentioned six content areas.

To ensure your involvement in this process, the core team is developing a series of six questionnaires, one for each of the content areas. We appreciate and depend on your input and hope that you will complete each questionnaire to assist us in this process.

(continued on page 3)

HOLYWEEK



Sunday, April 1 thru Saturday, April 7, 2007

The Triduum



At all six sites
April 1, 2007

Holy
Oils



Chrism Mass:

At St. John's Cathedral
Monday, April 3,

Holy Oils are blessed for
use during the year and
taken back to each parish.



Office of Tenebrae:

At Spencer Community of Jesus Our
Savior, Wednesday, April 4, at 7:30
pm

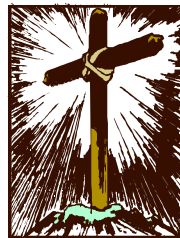
Join us for a Holy Week devotion
dating back to the seventh or eighth
century AD. Tenebrae is
characterized by the successive
extinguishing of candles as the
service progresses.



First movement of the Triduum:

Holy Thursday, April 5, at the Medina
Community Center at 7 p.m.

OLHC meets at the Community Center of the
Medina County Fairgrounds and we remind you
to bring a simple supper. We will then celebrate
the liturgy which includes the footwashing
ceremony in which you are encouraged to
participate. Remember to bring a hand towel.
Please SIGN UP or call in the number to the
office by Monday morning, April 2. A free will
donation will help defray expenses for the hall
rental (\$900).



Second movement of the Triduum:

Good Friday, April 6, at 6 pm

Please join us for a simple supper of soup
and bread at the Litchfield Community of
Jesus the Christ Child. Good Friday services
will follow the supper at 7:30 pm.



Third movement of the Triduum:

Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil,
April 7, at Litchfield at 9 p.m.

We will celebrate Easter Vigil
followed by a reception. You are
welcome to bring a fingerfood.



NEED SOME SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT?

(Daily scripture reflections, Seasonal devotions,
Audio and online retreats and presentations etc.)

www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily/html

(Family spirituality and much more!)

www.homefaith.com

(Update your faith, hundreds of Catholic
Saints, and numerous other things)

www.americancatholic.org



A "JUNIOR" JUSTICE EVENT

For 20 years, the Catholic Commission of Wayne, Ashland, Medina Counties (WAM) has been hosting the Harvest of Justice Award Dinner and Celebration. In 1996, the first Peace & Justice Award was presented to our own **Sister Mary Lou Misciasci, CSJ**. Since then there have been ten worthy recipients of this honor. All the recipients have demonstrated a strong commitment to social justice in harmony with biblical values. We are now looking toward the future. The youth of today are those who will shape the lifestyle of tomorrow. We would like to begin to honor their achievements.

In late summer of 2007, we will host the *FIRST Annual Junior Justice Celebration*. Youth Directors in WAM parishes will study the achievements of one young person between the ages of 13 and 21 who meets these criteria:

- Shows an active commitment to the Christian concept of social justice as mandated in the scriptures.
- Demonstrates a positive force for systemic change through community or Church organizing and education, legislative involvement, personal example, etc.
- Responds to victims of injustice through advocacy, self-help, community development, legislative action, etc.
- Exhibits a personal lifestyle that reflects a spirit of solidarity with the poor.

This justice event will be a family affair and include speakers who are connected with the ideals of young people. We invite you to look at the youth around you who deserve the distinction of **OUTSTANDING YOUTH LEADER OF JUSTICE!** Give your nomination to Jackie Vigneault, our youth minister coordinator, or Carol Perzy of CCWAM.

"THE GATHERING" (cont'd from page 1)

The questionnaire on *Knowledge of the Faith* was completed recently. Soon you will receive the questionnaire on *Liturgical Life*. Please fill it out and hand it in! Thank you for your help in ensuring the success of these planning efforts to address future issues and develop a comprehensive adult faith formation program. The members of the Faith Formation Leadership Team (*Fr. Ron, George Fink, Robin Imbrigotta, Lois Kinter, Carol Perzy, June Seman, Jackie Vigneault, & Gail Weisman*) thanks you for your help with this process!

CONGRATULATIONS!

FIRST COMMUNIONS:

Victoria Marie Andrews
Daniel William Chech
Brandon Heath
Jacob Terwilliger
Kevin Paul Kusmik

NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Chloe Michelle Jaworski
Alan Kenneth Rusnak
Ella Rose Olic
Ayden Thomas Olic
Haley Mae Hobbs
Eastyn Marie Rohr



Please welcome our NEW PARISHIONERS:

Tim & Eileen Doyle
Joan Paletta
Patrick & Jennifer Boyle
Francine Burns
John Jessica McCabe
Bob & Kathy Stegmaier
Michele & Randy Soworowski
Anna Marie Festa
Jonathan & Marcy Cook
Brian & Betty Roman
Dorothy Sheehan
Thomas Evans
Ruth Graves
Randy & Airy Homa
Beth Ihlenfeld
Rose Krohne
Paul & Kristi Lutz
Paul & Pamela Trivisonno
Charles & Michele Piccola
John & Connie Hurt
Ronald & Diane Kesek

OLHC EVANGELIZATION ACTIVITIES

The Evangelization Team (E-Team) has been busy the past two years. The greeter ministry was established in our parish to promote a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for all, especially visitors and new parishioners. If you see a new face please introduce yourself and others to them.

The E-Team completed a survey of 284 inactive parishioners. We succeeded in welcoming back some people, updating our parish roster, providing youth ministry information, and the opportunity for contact with a member of the pastoral team if someone requested it.

Beginning in the fall of 2006 an ad appeared in "The Trading Post" listing all the locations and times of Masses in our parish. An OLHC information sheet will soon be provided for campgrounds and motels in our area.

In November, 2006, Welcome Packets were assembled and distributed to approximately 500 new homes in the Chippewa Lake, Seville and Litchfield areas. We plan to distribute another 200 before Easter. Soon we will begin to track land transfers in our area and send a letter welcoming the new home owner to the area as well as to our parish. We will include an information brochure about OLHC.

Currently we are in the process of approaching each community council regarding the formation of a Sunshine Club so that we have more effective contact with parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital, or have a special need. *We would like to ask each parishioner to help in this endeavor and keep the coordinator of the Sunshine Club in your community informed of these situations.*

A very special thank you to all the volunteers who helped make phone calls, stuff envelopes, and distribute welcome packets. We are grateful to our Pastoral Team for their support and for the dedication of our E- Team members:

Chippewa - Joan Groll & Bob Engel
Litchfield - Wanda Vogel, Betsy Mikalacki
Lodi - Ceil Lakotish
Nova - Carl Taddeo
Seville - Dottie Pallat & Jan Perry
Spencer - Ed & Gretchen Kramer
Team - Fr. Ron Bryda

Please pray the Evangelization Prayer which is on the back of the missalette. Each of us can become a more evangelizing person – someone who lives and shares the Good News of Jesus.

In Mark 16:15 Jesus says: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

OPERATION HOMES

We will be hosting guests at Chatham Community Church during the weeks of April 9, June 18, August 27, November 5. Anyone interested in volunteering, either by providing a meal, dining with the guests, staying overnight, or all of the above, please call Connie at 330-648- 2602.

Many have been helped by this very effective program. For those who find themselves without shelter, Operation Homes has proven to be a welcome haven. Agency workers in Medina help guests to find work and affordable housing. Guests remain in the program for up to 90 days. Within that time, most of them have been able to save enough to pay for a security deposit and the one month's rent required by most apartment owners. Many have also been helped by grants that have been awarded to Medina agencies.

We also want to remind you that if you have gently worn furniture, household items or appliances in working order, you may call Gary and Terry Mennell at 330-648-2711 or Joe and Cheryl Belle at 330-769-3171. They will gladly collect the items and deliver them to the needy,

free of charge.

HELPING OTHERS

These items are available for lending:

arm sling
Ascensia Breeze blood glucose monitoring system
Cane
3 quad canes
3 bedside commodes, crutches
digital thermometer, 2 knee braces, lap desk,
nebulizer, 1 tub with grab bars
dual channel nerve stimulator, 5 walkers
toilet seat raisers, 6 wheelchairs
tub stool
walkers
wedge shaped pillow
wheelchair
wrist braces
tool for putting socks on
tub grab bar
1 case of underpads for bed
1 case of Depends

Multiple canes, commodes, tub stools, walkers, and wheelchairs are currently being used by others.

REMEMBERING Sister Mary Lou

There is so much more to a person's life than an obituary is able to contain. After reading the basic facts of Sr. Mary Lou Misciasci's life, I thought of all the people whom she touched with her faith and love along the way. Each one of us is richer for the experience of knowing her.

Sister Mary Lou's religious community, the Sisters of St. Joseph, published an obituary, which I would like to share with you.

Mary Lou was welcomed as the first grandchild in an Irish — Italian family. Her mother was Helen McDevitt and Helen's parents came from Ireland to Boston. Arthur Misciasci's parents came from Calabria in southern Italy. As a young child Mary Lou lived above her grandparents and aunts and uncles. She enjoyed a secure home life and was part of an active neighborhood with many children her age and many baseball games in which she excelled as a pitcher. Her very active life included many work experiences starting in the eighth grade when she worked at the parish rectory.

Mary Lou attended Annunciation school in grades one to five and Ascension school in grades six to eight. Her high school years were spent at St. Joseph Academy where she belonged to the National Honor Society and the Sodality. While Mary Lou thought about entering the Community Preparate during high school, her parents requested that she wait at least until after high school. Entering in 1957 she soon formed many friendships in the Community.

Receiving both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from St. John College, Mary Lou began ministry as a teacher. She taught at St. Vincent de Paul, St. Angela Merici, St. Rose, St. Peter, Loudonville, St. Columbkille, and St. Francis de Sales, Akron.

In 1971 Mary Lou received an appointment which was a first in the Cleveland Diocese. She was assigned as a pastoral minister on the administrative team of the newly-established Church of the Resurrection. Mary Lou said that the work of pastoral ministry was both a great risk and a great reward.

Succeeding years saw Mary Lou as a member of the Congregation's Leadership Team, in ministry at St. Joseph Academy, working with the Volunteers in Mission program, in Vocation ministry, at St. Hilary, Akron, and as part of the pastoral team at Our Lady Help of Christians in Litchfield. Recently her illness brought a close to her work in Litchfield, but as a resident of Regina Mary Lou continued to minister to those around her. She will be remembered fondly by

those who shared her life in Community, especially her classmates Helen Ann Brown and Donna Hawk, and all who ministered with her.

I came to know Sister Mary Lou when I began my ministry at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish. We were partners on Cycle A (Litchfield and Lodi). We ministered together for over four years on that Cycle and nine years as Pastoral Team members.

As a Team we treasured Sr. Mary Lou's knowledge of the parish and were inspired by her love of the parishioners. She was known among us as our "wisdom" person. She had the gift of taking all the data, assessing a situation, and using her gift of wisdom to put it all together. I always admired her willingness to accept challenges and responsibility for our Religious Education program. She stepped up to the plate and did it! In spite of the physical infirmities she had, she would not be deterred from carrying out her ministry.

Mary Lou was a joy to be with. As a Team we would take a "fun day" every once in awhile to "recreate" and energize ourselves for ministry. A couple of experiences stand out in my mind, which shows that you can't keep a good woman down. One time we took a trip to Medina Lanes to go bowling, Father Vince Hawk, who was our seminary intern at the time, set us up to meet his grandmother who was quite a bowler. Sister Mary Lou bowled with us in spite of two knee operations, a hip operation and open-heart surgery. We did not realize it at the time, but a reporter from the Medina Gazette was at the bowling alley. He interviewed her and wrote an article about the "Bionic Bowling Nun".

Another time the Team was playing "Bocce Ball" and Sister Mary Lou beat us all. She loved life and enjoyed being with people.

When I returned from vacation I learned that Father Ron presided at her funeral and that Father Jack McDonough preached the homily. This was so appropriate because she knew them both for so many years.

Fr. Jack McDonough came to know her when she was an eighth grader at Ascension School on the Westside of Cleveland. It was 1950 and he was newly ordained. She was active with the youth group and he ministered to the group. Fr. Ron told me that Father Jack remembered the vibrant young girl he first met. She never lost that vibrancy and joy for life.

At the time of our twenty-fifth anniversary as a parish we created a new mission statement. As I think of Sister Mary Lou, I believe that her life was an expression and embodiment of that mission statement. She still calls and challenges us in the name of Jesus to be as vibrant as a parish as she was as a person.

Father Ned



Medina County Hunger Task Force/Feed-A-Family Food Drive

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Christmas, once again, was such a heartwarming experience. Our givers were so very generous, and our receivers truly appreciative. There are currently close to 100 children in the program.

June and George Seman and I are currently looking for someone who would like to help with the program as we do, i.e., contact receivers before Christmas, Easter and birthday, to find out what the child wants or needs, and then contact givers with the suggestions offered by the parent or guardian. Then, we arrange for pickup of the gifts and arrange deliveries at the homes of the receivers. We have found that the work has been a blessing and we have been greatly enriched by the experience.

If you are interested in being part of this program or have any questions, please call Connie at 330-648-2602.

The Medina County Hunger Task Force, of which our SVDP food pantry is a member, will hold its annual Feed-A-Family food drive from March 1-3. In order to receive our share of the donated food collected, [we need volunteers to help sort food at the Medina County Career Center. Dates to sort at 6:30 pm are: Mondays - March 12, 19, 26 and Tuesday - April 10.](#)

This year, Buehler's and Miller Bros. are lending their support to the food drive. Food collection bins will be in the stores. Monetary donations can be made at any Buehler's register upon check out. In addition, Miller Bros. will have prepackaged food bags available to purchase for \$5.00. Donations of the most needed items include canned fruits and vegetables, soup, tuna/chicken, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, pasta, spaghetti sauce and paper products.

For many years, our SVDP food pantry was a member of Cleveland's Harvest for Hunger food campaign. In 1997 the Medina County food pantries broke away and started their own organization - the Medina County Hunger Task Force. As a result, the Feed-A-Family food drive was created to serve Medina County. At that time, the task force consisted of seven food pantries. Over the years, the task force has grown and now includes 12 pantries. All pantry members, as well as the two task force directors, volunteer their time. [One hundred percent of food and money collected during the month of March is evenly divided among the 12 pantries.](#)

Thank you in advance for your help with this great cause! For further information or questions, please call Michelle Cox at 330-887-5440.



CHURCH IN THE CITY

Our Anniversary House is progressing beautifully. Just a little bit more siding needs to be installed on the outside of the house. The front and back porches have been completed and give the home an added interest and lots of curb appeal. We are currently installing drywall. A men's group from St. Ignatius came and did all of the ceilings. Little by little we are getting more done. [We really could use some more help, so anyone interested in helping, please call me for more information.](#) We are now looking for those who can help with taping the drywall. Experience is not necessary, but is very much appreciated.

On February 10th, we provided [a meal for approximately 200 people.](#) Many OLHC volunteers came to help, some for their first (and hopefully not last) time. With everyone chipping in on the work load, no one was overextended and the work was completed very beautifully. Those of you, who were able to partake of the meal, said that it was great. Women from OLHC made numerous meatloaves, trays of mashed potatoes, and delicious desserts.. Everyone had first, seconds and some even took some food home with them. Then, we had tables heaped with bread from Panera and Giant Eagle that the guests were able to take home. Volunteers from St Christopher's Parish brought cases of new hats and gloves to distribute to the guests. The dining tables were set with red tablecloths and each table had a red silk rose as the centerpiece. Eileen Kelly, the outreach person at St. Colman's dedicated the meal in Sr. Mary Lou's memory which gave added meaning to the event. From its onset, Sr. Mary Lou had been a big part of the Church in the City program.

What a pleasure it was to be able to provide such a lovely meal for such wonderful guests. We will be providing the meal once again on [October 13.](#) Please mark your calendars. Connie Ebaugh 330-648-2602

Vibrant Parish Life

In February of 2001, Bishop Pilla presented a Pastoral Letter entitled, "Vibrant Parish Life." This began an initiative which became a framework for a diocesan pastoral plan. The heart of the message was and is grounded in the hope that "we will do all that is possible to sustain and enhance the vibrant parish life to which Jesus calls us."

Every parish implemented a self-study process, trained parish leaders, educated parishioners and networked with other parishes to explore their common interests and the possibilities of collaboration. In January of 2005, each parish presented a report to be used in renewing parish life as well as to develop and strengthen ministries that better serve parishioners.

In May of 2006 meetings were held in Litchfield to continue the process of discovering and developing vibrant parish life within the Diocese of Cleveland as directed by Bishop Pilla and Bishop Lennon. We are called through Baptism to build Christ's church both spiritually and physically. For a variety of reasons including geography, economic swings, cultural change, aging (personnel and facilities), attrition and the city/rural migration, all parishes are re-evaluating the use of their resources and how to share them. This means collaborating with neighboring parishes in many ways such as where and how often to hold parish programs.

For several months, neighboring churches met to plan through a process we call "clustering." After examining local geography, calendars, neighborhood needs, shared mission, staff workloads, common history and sacramental needs, parishes discovered their strengths and weaknesses. Each parish suggested areas of collaboration and/or shared resources and sent them to the Diocese of Cleveland and to our Bishop for review.

In February of 2007, Bishop Lennon divided the diocesan parishes into regional clusters based upon all the data sent by each parish committee. Clustering will allow parishes to meet pastoral needs for the next five to ten years. As this process of clustering continues it may lead to merging, consolidating or closing some parishes in order to strengthen and sustain the long term mission and ministry of the Church.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

From its onset, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish had a unique structure covering over 500 square miles in parts of Wayne, Ashland, Medina, and Lorain counties. OLHC's Vibrant Parish Life Committee worked with parishes in the area giving consideration to geography, shared interests, sacramental needs, number of households, and workloads for priests and parish staffs.

Since 1976 OLHC has been blessed with dedicated clergy, vowed religious, lay pastoral ministers, and faith filled people. In February of 2007, Bishop Lennon affirmed our present structure of one parish with six worship sites pastured by a Pastoral Team. We continue to collaborate and cooperate with the parishes in our district to strengthen and sustain the mission and ministry of the Church.



GALILEE-BY-THE-SEA
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WHERE? Community of Jesus the Christ Child in Litchfield

WHEN? August 13th – 17th

WHO? All Children and Youth – Kindergarten – Grade Six

“Galilee-By-The-Sea” will transport participants to a familiar place where Jesus taught, healed, and fed those who followed him.

Each of the five days highlights a scriptural passage from the Gospel of Matthew that invites all into the very life of Christ.

As members of their own tribe (named after the tribes of Israel), our young people will explore biblical customs, learn about the Synagogue (the church of Jesus’ time), play Bibletime games, and create crafts that reflect goods that were common in the Marketplace.

Our plan is to give those who attend lots of opportunities to learn more about Jesus, to pray and worship, to use and gain new talents, and to stir up a life of service.

Look for more details about registration, times, and adult volunteer opportunities in upcoming parish publications.

WEEKEND LITURGIES:

Chippewa: Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

Litchfield: Saturday 5:30 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

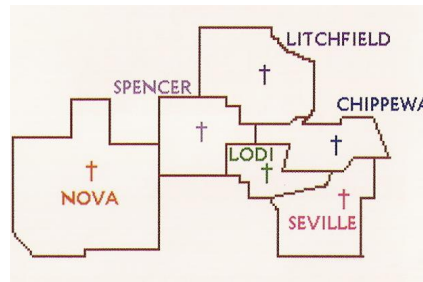
Lodi: Sunday 8:30 am

Nova-Savannah: Sunday 10:30 am

Seville-Creston: Saturday 7:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Spencer: Sunday 8:30 am



Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
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