



The Harvester

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

Spring 2024

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YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Update...

I am happy to report that our Youth Group is growing and thriving! We are now meeting up to three times a month, and the youth of our parish seem to be learning, having fun, finding friendships, and growing closer to God. Every week we seem to have between 15-30 youth present. The OLHC Youth Group was also able to attend the CLE 2:16 retreat this past January, and hope to do more on the diocesan level in the future. These young individuals have really brought a new and exciting element to our parish, and we hope to see their involvement go beyond our regular Sunday night meetings.

Our Lady Help of Christians' connection with the Lodi Family Center (LFC) has also flourished into a beautiful relationship. Being connected with LFC has not only given our youth ample space to expand, it has also provided the youth with a regular means to give back to the community through their assistance to the LFC. The OLHC Youth Group has helped stock and organize the pantry, as well as clean the LFC facilities. This provides our youth a way to both give back in charity, as well as offers them a means to earn some service hours that can be applied to school and other organizations they are involved in.

Our Youth Group Core team has also expanded in these past months. We now have around 7 or 8 dedicated core members who donate their time to teach and minister to our youth. These wonderful men and women are the heart of our group; without them, I simply do not believe our youth group would be sustainable. They connect brilliantly with our youth, and offer them a positive role model in life. I cannot speak highly enough of these outstanding ministers of our parish!

If you or anyone you know is interested in getting involved with the OLHC Youth Group, please feel free to contact me!

Pax Christi,
Jacob McCormick

A REFLECTION BY RICK DUDAS...

Hello everyone and I hope you are enjoying our mild winter and anticipating the blossoms of Spring, 2024. My name is Rick Dudas and my wife Dorothy and I have been worshipping at Our Lady Help of Christians Litchfield worship site for around 10 years. If you so not recognize my name, you may have “heard” me, because I have been the Cantor at the 6:00 PM Mass in Litchfield for the past three years on most Saturday evenings. I have also been a member of the choir, who sing the hymns of praise at the celebrations of the Easter Vigil and Christmas Eve every year.

But, I am not writing these lines to talk about music. I am writing these paragraphs to talk to you about “Being Present in the Presence”. What do I mean by this statement? Let me explain.

I have to go back quite a few years to talk about my brother-in-law, who I always called my brother. His name was Paul J. Becka. Paul grew up in Lakewood, educated at St. Edward High School, where he earned athletic letters at least ten times and was elected to the St. Edward High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. [Just over a year later, he passed away at age 70 after a 35 year battle with rheumatoid arthritis.] Paul went on to graduate from the College of Wooster and embarked on a long career in Sales in Columbus, St. Louis, Omaha, and finally Kansas City. Not only was Paul an incredible business man, but he also married Patty, raised two daughters, and loved his three grandchildren.

But Paul carried an inspirational message, which was to live his life with Christ. Because Paul was a very successful business man, he possessed resources to give back - to be present in His presence. Paul and a group of a dozen St. Edward Graduates (1967) formed a group called the Tontine. The Tontine mission was to fund a worthy young man through his four years of education at St. Edward High School. One eligible student was selected every four years. Right now, the tuition is \$19,350 per year. Paul was also involved with a pregnancy charity, like the Oasis of Hope in Medina, Ohio, which helps deserving pregnant mothers through their pregnancy and beyond with the needs and wants they cannot afford. Paul was also a Knight of Columbus, a Catholic Men’s Service organization which gives back to the Church and Community in the ideals of Blessed Father Michael McGivney, the K of C Founder.

When Paul passed away, the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leawood, Kansas helped the mourners pray the Rosary, guided Paul’s earthly remains through the Mass of Christian Burial, and fed the congregation the Luncheon after the funeral. These men inspired me, as did my late brother Paul.

I came home in August of 2019 and by Veteran’s Day I was a 2nd Degree Knight. I received my 3rd Degree online during Covid and last April I became a Sir Knight, which is achieved during a 4th Degree Exemplification Ceremony with over 100 other Sir Knights in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese. I am currently an officer (Deputy Grand Knight) in Council 4168 of the Knights of Columbus associated with St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Medina. Our Council also has members worshipping at Holy Martyrs and Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Churches, too. I am also a member of the 4th Degree Assembly 1766 in Wadsworth OH.

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Who are the Knights of Columbus?

The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic Fraternal Brotherhood of about 14,000 councils and 1.8 million members. Knights stand together in faith, dedicated to uphold the principles they cherish while lending their support and strength to parish, home, and fellow Knights. From charity for worldwide causes, to helping closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top rated insurance program, the Knights makes the most of its Brotherhood. This quote is taken from our website: MedinaKofC.Org

Our Council is dedicated to giving back or “Being Present to the Presence” in our Medina Community.

Every month, we get together twice to discuss our activities and our objectives. First, our Officers (and any other Brother Knight who wants to attend or present his case for a charity) get together on the first Thursday of the month to talk about charities, finances, activities, and events which our Council will participate. Then, on the second Tuesday our entire Council gets together for a general membership meeting.

Our Charities:

Medina County Right to Life
St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
Birthcare of Medina County
Oasis of Hope
Tony Imburgia Scholarship Fund
Honduras Medical Mission
Retirement Fund - Religious Cleveland Diocese
Country Life Kids Camp
MORE

Our Activities:

Annual Clambake October 5, 2024
St. Francis Xavier Elementary School Opening Day (Baseball) Lunch
Texas Hold-Em Tournament benefiting Tony Imburgia Scholarship Fund
Assist @ St. Francis Xavier Parish Picnic
St. Patrick's Day Dinner Reverse Raffle Dance
Parking Lot Assistance at St. Francis Xavier Special Events
Setup / Dismantle Creche @ St. Francis Xavier Church
Prayer List Members /Relatives / Parishioners in need of God's Graces

The Knights of Columbus Council 4168 is always looking for men who want to get involved with their community and at the same time build some relationships with other Catholic gentlemen in the Medina area. It doesn't matter how old you are either. We have Brothers in their 20's and in their 80's. If you are a Catholic man in good standing with your Parish, we would love to have you join us. How do you join? Visit the website KofCOhio.ORG, click on the Yellow box “Click Here to Join Us”, and fill out the Form “Join Us For Free”. Make sure you enter the PROMO CODE with BLESSED MCGIVNEY (it should fill in automatically). If you do not have access to the website, call me Rick Dudas @ 440-823-6324 (I will return your message). Join the Knights of Columbus to be Present to the Presence

Thank you and may the Grace of God Be With you always,
Rick Dudas rickldudas@gmail.com 440-823-6324

