



# *From The Heart*

*Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Oberlin, Ohio*

*Spring 2017 Issue*



## *2017 First Communion Class*

Back Row: Milou Boonekamp, Brooke Senghas, Hannah Drost, Morgan Adkins  
Front Row: Alexander Hanmer, Baily Okech, Christopher Hanmer and Fr. Cole

***“May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of His love, and the joy of His life within you.”***

## SELECTING A NEW BISHOP

It has been over 6 months since our bishop, Richard Lennon, retired due to health issues. In case you have been wondering why it has taken so long to appoint his successor, let me give you a brief overview of the process involved in the selection of a bishop. Ideally, every diocesan bishop would be an expert in theology, a charismatic preacher and a savvy financial manager. He would be a holy, personable, prayerful visionary and a well-educated man who is outstanding in strong faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls, wisdom, prudence and all human virtues. Canon Law has prescribed a deliberate process for trying to ensure the selection of bishops who will meet these expectations to the greatest extent possible.

Each country in the world is divided into a number of provinces composed of a number of dioceses. The process begins with each diocesan bishop of each province compiling a private list of priests whom he believes would make a good bishop for his particular diocese. To keep the lists current they are updated every three years. When the need for a new bishop arises, the archbishop of the province distributes to all the bishops of his province the *curricula vitae* of priests whose names have been submitted to him. Since the six Ohio dioceses belong to the Ecclesiastical Province of Cincinnati, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr is doing this. (Currently, besides Cleveland, the dioceses of Indianapolis, Allentown, Juneau, Pensacola-Tallahassee and Raleigh are also in need of a bishop and going through this same process.) Following the discussion at their province meeting, a vote is taken on which names to recommend. The vote tally and minutes of the meeting are then forwarded to the Apostolic Nuncio (the Vatican's equivalent of an ambassador) in Washington, D.C.

After reviewing the suggested names, he does his own investigation into the suitability of the candidates. He narrows his list through the input from a confidential questionnaire which is sent to 20 to 30 people (both clergy and laity) who know each candidate. All material is collected and reviewed by the Nuncio and a report with his three recommendations and his personal preference are forwarded to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome. The cardinal who chairs the Congregation convenes the Congregation to review the material, discuss the appointment at length and then vote. The Congregation may follow the recommendation of the Apostolic Nuncio, choose another of the suggested candidates or ask for additional recommendations. At a private audience with the Pope, usually on a Saturday, the head of the Congregation for Bishops presents to him their recommendation. A few days later, the Holy Father informs the Congregation of his decision. They then notify the Apostolic Nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is yes, the Vatican is notified and a date is set for the announcement. If the answer is no, the process starts all over again. Normally it takes 6 to 8 months - and sometimes longer - from the time a bishop retires or dies until a new bishop is appointed.

The whole process is kept secret, but not because the Church has anything to hide. The prospective candidates are not told their names are being considered, a fact which not only takes much pressure off the prospective bishops, but also protects the selection process. An ambitious priest, for example, cannot actively "campaign" for the job of bishop. Neither can supporters of a particular priest lobby for his selection. This means that the entire selection process, from the bishops of the province, to the Apostolic Delegate, to the Congregation of Bishops, to the Pope himself, is completely free from the possibility of outside influences.

This system has been designed to help the Holy Father in his task of choosing bishops for the dioceses throughout the world. Let's pray that whomever Pope Francis selects for the next shepherd of the Diocese of Cleveland will enrich us with his deep faith and the power of his words as he proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Fr. Cole*

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts. (Is 55:9)*

## *The Refugee Project: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How*

A variety of factors motivated us to become involved in this project: the fact that we're all descendants of refugees and immigrants; it's a great way to spend quality time with our families in service; and the desire to help others.

Our first meeting took place during the fifth game of the 2016 American League Championship Series. We were a varied group: Ted and Matt Chmura and Steffani (Chmura) Baker. Lori Taylor, Kathy Spencer. Mike, Kelly and Matt Prill. We were a high school sophomore. Retirees. Those with grown children. One with a toddler. We were good friends whose children had attended school together. We were people meeting for the very first time, gathered together for the purpose of helping resettle a refugee family. We met in the Sacred Heart education building, cell phones on -- or underneath -- the table for surreptitious glances at the score while Andrew Mathay from Cleveland Catholic Charities' Immigration and Refugees Services explained the refugee situation. We learned where refugees typically come from, how many years they spend in camp, the extensive vetting process every member of a family must go through ... from interviews to retina scans ... from fingerprinting to background checks.

The Indians made it to the World Series that night. But given the enormity of our task and the difficulties faced every day by refugee families, the game's outcome didn't seem quite as important.

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We participated in our mandatory VIRTUS\* training. We went downtown to get our own fingerprints taken. We filled out paperwork for background checks. The World Series came and went while Lori gathered a houseful of furniture and dishes and stored it in her garage. By December, we were ready for our refugees. Already we'd begun to think of them as "ours" -- as belonging to us. But the problem was, our refugees weren't quite ready for us. Just before 2016 clicked over to 2017. The Patriots won the Super Bowl. Pitchers and catchers reported for spring training. By March, we concluded we might never get a family.

Then suddenly, the call came: a family of seven was coming in 4 days. Could we have the house ready by then? We could. And we did, with the help of so many parishioners and community members.

There have been many surprises along the way: we expected a small, two-parent family and got a single-parent family with six children. We were shocked to see they had only two suitcases. We didn't realize the washing machine wasn't part of the house's lease agreement.

And we have learned much: we found we love Honey Hutt ice cream way too much. We found we pronounce Somali words very badly. We have learned to try not to impose our values on others. We have learned about helping people learn to do things for themselves. We have learned that we're receiving so much more than we could possibly hope to give to this family.

The Cavs are in the playoffs. Our refugee family is adjusting. And our group of refugees and volunteers has suddenly become a group of close and committed friends. *"Submitted by the Refugee Committee"*

\*VIRTUS is the brand name that identifies best practices programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "right doing" within religious organizations.



**SIDEBAR: (Comments from Lori regarding her experience with the refugee family project.)**

*My experiences with this project help me to practice allowing God to direct my life. When I do that, the blessings bloom one hundredfold and are truly moving and inspiring. I have been teary-eyed, broadside-smiled and gut-chuckled through the contributions of support, prayer, and help that so many people -- students, children and fellow parishioners -- have offered. For example, the neighbor who just showed up at the Abdi home to help cut the grass in the front yard last Sunday or the dozen Oberlin College students now offering to donate their bikes as they prepare to graduate. It feels like working together to bring peace and justice to the world.*

*Lori Taylor*

### *The Little Flower*

*St. Therese, the Little Flower, listen to my plea.  
Please pick me a rose from the heavenly garden,  
And send it to me with a message of Love.  
Ask God to grant me the favor I humbly implore,  
And tell Him I will love Him each day more and more.*

*Little Flower, teach me your little way,  
And help me, please help me, to love and believe.*

*St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face,  
Ask our blessed Lord to consider what I plead,  
And tell Him I'll try to be loving and mild.  
Believe me, I'll always be grateful for God's eternal care,  
So please send me the rose that answers my prayer.*

*Little Flower, teach me your little way,  
And help me, please help me, to love and believe.*

*Joanne Ward*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS !!**

**PARISH PICNIC!** Sunday, June 18, 2017, following the (hopefully outdoor) 10 a.m. Mass. This year the picnic will be held -- rain or shine -- at the New Russia Township pavilion and hall on Butternut Ridge Road. There will be food, drinks, games, fellowship. You are invited (yes, even encouraged!) to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please look for sign-up sheets if you can help with set-up or take-down.

**OBERLIN FAMILY FUN FAIR:** Saturday, August 5th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tappan Square. This is Sacred Heart's first time to participate in the fun fair, and we hope you'll want to help. If you can sign up to sit (or stand) at our table and/or help with a children's game or craft for 1 to 2 hours, please contact Carrol Wilhelm at 440-647-3251 or [profit1@gmail.com](mailto:profit1@gmail.com). We hope this will be a great way to let people know there is a vibrant and welcoming Catholic community in Oberlin.

**CHURCH OPEN HOUSE:** From 2-4 on Sunday, August 6th, we hope to have Oberlin townspeople come by to take a peek at our parish facilities and maybe learn a little something about our faith. Later in the summer, the opportunity to be a greeter/guide will appear in the bulletin.

## **EMIGRATION FROM THE NETHERLANDS: THE LEEKS**



There is a short story before the emigration actually happened. We were a young couple planning to get married, but since the war there was a great need for housing and, for us, not much of a possibility, so we made official plans to apply for emigration.

The U.S. was our choice because John built pipe organs, and that was one of the professions needed there. A sponsor was a necessity in order to be considered and, of course, our personal records had to be without blemish. We started the paperwork. Several organ companies in different states wanted John, and we chose the Holtkamp Pipe Organ Company in Cleveland. The Netherlands was allowed a certain quota of emigrants per year, so our names were put on the bottom of the list.

When our parents became aware of our plans, things began to start rolling. They were the ones working very hard to find housing for us. There were new apartments being built, and many young couples were hoping to get in. Since we were getting older (30 and 27), we were fortunate in getting one. Shortly after that, we were married. Life went on. We continued with English lessons, although we had had French, English and German during high school, but of course we hadn't kept up with those.

We were very blessed with the news that we were expecting a baby. Our parents were thrilled; now their children would not go away from them to a foreign country, they hoped.

We did not hear any news or information from the emigration office for a long time until ... the 2<sup>nd</sup> day after the birth of our daughter, Paula. The mail came, and it was our turn to make a decision. *Now what? Go or not go.*

As a new father, John was not very eager to go and, for Mary, her baby was most important. We had to be at the U.S. Consulate in Rotterdam in two weeks. After soul-searching, we realized that the future was in front of us. Life would become normal again, and we would probably have regretted not pursuing the emigration. So a passport picture of a 10-day-old baby was made – how cute, my fingers behind her ears to keep her head up. The visit to the consulate went well. We needed to make the oath of allegiance and know something about their Constitution. We needed to give blood samples, etc., etc. We could set the date ourselves and decided to let Paula be at least 3 months old. D-Day became August 4, 1961.

The long plane trip was in a DC-8 to New York, with Paula in a carry travel-basket, hanging above our heads. We spent one night with friends, then there was the train ride from New York to Cleveland, also quite some hours – eight or nine. People on the train were surprised that we were emigrating, and they even gave us flowers. How nice. The Holtkamp Company had booked us into the Sheraton in downtown Cleveland. We could have stayed there a couple of days, but John wanted to get started. An apartment near the workshop was provided for us since we didn't have a car.

John stayed about 3 years. He then obtained a position as Curator of Organs and Harpsichords at the Oberlin Conservatory. After 13 years (in 1976) he made the big step to start his own business, and he built a workshop behind the house. He serviced the pipe organs of churches within a radius of 50 miles from Oberlin. He was able to build two complete pipe organs in his shop, one for St. Alban Episcopal Church in Annandale, Virginia, and one for the First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, Ohio. Over time, he also constructed 16 French harpsichords.

We received our Naturalization Certificates in 1968. We were blessed with two more children, James and Peter. Mary continued her education in nursing and practiced for 20 years as an RN in the OB department of Allen Memorial Hospital – now Mercy – in Oberlin.

In 1992 John retired and James took over the business, which is now located in a larger place in Be-rea, Ohio.

We have never regretted the emigration to this land of opportunity. **God Bless America.**

*John and Mary Leek* (pronounced Lake)

## The Last Leaf

When I was twelve, I remember watching O. Henry's *The Last Leaf* on television with my dad. If you're not familiar, the story tells of a young girl, sick with pneumonia, intent on watching the leaves on a vine outside her window. With the separation of each leaf into the wind, so was her connectedness to life. The stubborn vine, deeply embedded in the wall outside her window, quickly dwindled from holding on to many to just a single leaf.

The single leaf was symbolic of her own mortality.

At the end of O. Henry's story, you learn the girl does not die, but not because of the tenacity of a single leaf. The tenacity came rather from an elderly artist who believed that if he could paint his masterpiece -- that single leaf -- that leaf would give her the reassurance she needed to live.

Perched on a ladder, in the rain and wind, by the light of a lantern, he painted. In the words of O. Henry, "...he painted it there the night the last leaf fell."

It's ironic how, thirty years later, I've often deferred to this story, if by nothing else than just visualizing that singular leaf. Perhaps because it was one of those few bonding moments I had with my dad. Now that he's gone, I find comfort in it.

It could also be that the single leaf has been the thread I cling to out of necessity. When on the verge of giving up, I place my faith in something outside my control and it gives me hope.

I wish I were virtuous enough to say that "that something outside" is always God. Sometimes it is, and sometimes it's God in disguise.

And sometimes I have faith despite my attempts to discard it.

After my father's death almost three Easters ago, I contemplated how I felt about life and the life after. And while his passing was tragic, I had to accept that I had no conditional right to withhold faith in God, because the cycle of life is just that.

When it comes to faith, perhaps God is suggesting that the strength not come from the leaf that hangs on, but rather from the vine that persists. Besides, just because we can't see the leaves doesn't mean they aren't there.

*Marla Thompson*

## DID YOU KNOW?

You might have known ... but maybe not! The following folks are/were converts to the Catholic faith. Some may surprise you.

**CARDINAL FRANCIS ARINZE** of Nigeria; at 32, youngest bishop in the world; Emeritus Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

**CHERRY BOONE**, daughter of actor/singer/evangelist Pat Boone.

**ROBERT BORK**, American judge and jurist.

**DAVE BRUBECK**, jazz musician.

**TIM CONWAY**, comedian and actor.

**GARY COOPER**, actor.

**DIANA DORS**, actress.

**NEWT GINGRICH**, politician and author.

**GRAHAM GREENE**, author.

**SIR ALEC GUINNESS**, actor.

**SCOTT HAHN**, Biblical theologian, writer, speaker, author, professor.

**SUSAN HAYWARD**, actress.

**KATHARINE, DUCHESS OF KENT**, wife of Prince Edward; first member of the royal family to convert since 1701.

**DEAN KOONTZ**, novelist.

**QUEEN NAZLI**, queen of Egypt from 1919-1936; mother of King Farouk.

**PATRICIA NEAL**, actress.

**KNUTE ROCKNE** ... You know who Knute Rockne was, right? Notre Dame janitor and chemistry research assistant, semi-pro fighter, magna cum laude graduate of UND, and football coach of some repute.

**ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS**, the former Edith Stein, who was a Jewish philosopher and writer. Martyred at Auschwitz.

**EVELYN WAUGH**, author (*Brideshead Revisited*).

**JOHN WAYNE**, actor.

**ISRAEL ZOLLI**, chief rabbi in Rome from 1940-1945.

(Some of the information is from an article by Matthew Bunson, NCR/EWTN News)

*“Forgive us our [trespasses] as we forgive those [who trespass] against us.’ There is no slightest suggestion that we are offered forgiveness on any other terms. It is made perfectly clear that if we do not forgive we shall not be forgiven. There are no two ways about it.” (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)*

*For the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him.*

2 Chronicles 30:9b

## MARIA LUCKI

*This is another in a series of stories of parishioners who have come to the United States from another country.*

Maria came to the United States from Costa Rica. She was on vacation and came to visit a friend in Wellington. While here, she met Mark, a man with whom she fell in love. She applied for and received an extension – a fiancée visa -- to stay and get to know him better. They married, and she stayed here. She's lived in different places in northeast Ohio, but has been in Oberlin for many years.

Maria came to the United States with a degree in microbiology from the University of Costa Rica (UCR). She dreamed of becoming a nurse and having a family. She now has two wonderful sons, Alex (15) and Diego (9).

Learning the language and becoming familiar with the culture were difficult. She worked hard at it and became an American citizen. People were kind to her, and she will forever be grateful.

What impressed her about the United States? The good organization and good roads; that the police and fire departments come when they're called. People are polite. She feels safe and loves the community and her parish. She's very happy she came.



Maria's comment about the current immigration situation: "Do it right. Get the right paperwork; otherwise, you will keep having trouble."

As far as we, as a parish, helping those who are coming into the country, she says, "We can help as a community if the person is legal. If not, I don't want to be part of that." She strongly believes people need to come in legally.

Maria plans to go back to school in the fall to finish nursing courses. In our parish, she is actively involved in the prayer shawl ministry and Family Promise. At St. Joseph School in Amherst, as well as at the Oberlin Public Library, she helps teach English as a second language. Here's something you probably wouldn't have guessed: Maria is a 2nd

Lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol!

Maria loves her parish, Sacred Heart, and St. Joseph's in Amherst, where she has many friends. She loves the Oberlin Community Center. She feels very glad and blessed to be in the U.S.A.

Maria wants to express her love and gratitude to all Americans who have been part of her journey. "I love you all 'como mi corazon'!"

**“ . always seek what is good [both] for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” (Th 5:15b-18)**

**“...show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels...” (Hebrews 13:1-2)**



## *Meet Your Ushers, Part 4*

If Sacred Heart ever decides to form a historical committee, **Jim Clark** should definitely be a member! Jim is a long-time usher, who generally serves at Saturday evening Mass, and is a wealth of information and stories regarding earlier times at Sacred Heart parish.

Jim was baptized at Sacred Heart and said his family has attended Mass here “forever, as far as I know.” He was asked to help out as an usher when he was still in high school, and he has been serving in that capacity since then.

With our annual church picnic approaching, he shared some anecdotes about the church picnics of his youth. He recounted that when he was in grade school, bar-b-que chicken dinners were always served. When Sacred Heart Church was located on Pleasant Street, there was no room for a picnic. That didn’t stop the parish from having them, though, as the events were held at Campbell’s picnic grove on Parsons Road, and the chicken was grilled outdoors.

Jim said when the building that is now the church was first constructed, it was actually thought of as a hall. When it was finally decided there would never be enough money to build a proper church, they began converting the hall into the church. The kitchen area was where the sacristy is now, and bar-b-que chicken dinners were still served at the picnics!

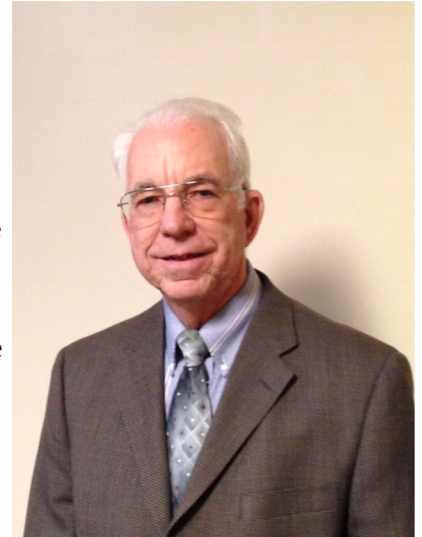
Jim’s grandfather purchased their farm on Diagonal Road in 1909, and each generation has spent their lives there. Although Jim, along with his father and brothers, has worked the family farm his whole life, he calls it his “evening job.” He also had a daytime job. He attended Lorain Technical School for two years and studied mechanical engineering there. He recalled that construction on Lorain County Community College (LCCC) began about a month before he completed his technical program. Since teachers from the technical school were involved in setting up the programs for LCCC and getting communities interested in its creation, Jim said his class was informed they would be the first graduating class from LCCC – and they were. After his graduation, he worked at Nelson Stud Welding in Elyria for 44 years, retiring in 2008.

Although Jim retired from his day job, the farm continues to keep him very busy, farming about 150 acres in crops. He said that farming is in his blood, and he would rather do that than almost anything else. He said he was always mechanically inclined and liked figuring out “how things tick.” He does his own repairs, if possible, to the farm machinery. He is also interested in antique cars. He belongs to an antique car club and has participated in 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades as well as taking some tours with the national club to Tennessee, Georgia, and Vermont. Jim used to go skiing and has been to Colorado to ski a number of times. He took a two-week ski trip to Austria one year and stayed in the village where “Silent Night” was written. He said the church is still there, although it is no longer used.

Jim also has fond memories of his visits to Rome when Father Bill took groups. He said, “As a Catholic, you hear about things in your faith, and a lot kind of tie back to Rome. When you’re there and you see it, it just fills in so many blank spots.”

*Kathy Gulish*

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths. (Pr 3:5-6)*



## *A Conversion Story*

Why am I Catholic? I thought the answer would be easy. I liked what I saw when I attended church with my husband. Community and fellowship stood out for me – but I can find that in a lot of churches of different religions. I had to think back. Why did I leave the Lutheran Church for the Catholic one?

The Catholic Church seems to me to be more grounded or rooted – and I don't mean this from a historical standpoint. The Mass is the same no matter which Catholic Church I attend. This structure and routine – that some may find boring or stifling – I find to be comforting, especially when life throws me a curve or two or three. In the midst of chaos, the structure and routine of the Mass or the daily readings become a solid, dependable place to land for some peace. When life is good and all is well, that same structure serves as a reminder of the direction I need to be going spiritually. I am human and I make mistakes. I can usually use a nudge in the right direction.

During my journey I have not always agreed with everything the church dictates. I have attended spiritual programs at other churches of different denominations. I have gained much from these and the discussions of our church differences. We are all on the same path. For me, the Catholic Church is comforting. It feels like home.

*Karen Todhunter*

## *OUR SACRISTANS: Jerry Borer and Henry DeLeon*

During Mass there are a number of people we see whose official capacities we recognize: Father Cole, Deacon Tom, the lector, servers, extraordinary ministers of communion, ushers, and the choir (Carl Lee, director). There are others we may or may not see, whose roles we may or may not know or understand.

Sacristans are specially trained to prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Mass. They are also trained in the proper methods for purifying and cleaning the communion bowls, chalice, and cups, all of which are used as vessels for the precious Body and Blood of our Lord during the Mass. Sacristans are required to arrive well in advance of the scheduled liturgy to set out the proper vessels and the unconsecrated bread and wine, as well as insuring that purificators and other incidentals are ready. They may also be called upon to prepare the baptismal area should a baptism be scheduled for a given Mass.

A sacristan is generally defined in the Roman Missal as one “who diligently arranges the liturgical books, the vestments, and other things that are necessary for the celebration of Mass”

Sacred Heart has two parish members serving as sacristans: Jerry Borer and Henry DeLeon. Jerry and Henry have a rather long list of duties they're required to fulfill, necessitating their arrival 45 minutes or more ahead of the liturgy. They turn on the lights; check that the tabernacle lamp is lit; replace any spent votive candles at the Sacred Heart statue; prepare vessels for the priest's washing of hands (i.e., lavabo); pour wine to be consecrated into the chalice; place chalice, communion cups and bowls on the credence table; and check with Father Cole asking if there are any additional requirements for this Mass. If there is to be incense used during the liturgical celebration, Jerry and Henry have additional duties that require a bit of coordination. The censer must arrive at the moment needed with the lit charcoal. Through experience and some luck, Jerry and Henry have developed their own methods to hit the right timing. After the incense has been used, the sacristan is responsible for its safe disposal.

One additional responsibility of the sacristan is to consider the number of hosts to be consecrated at each Mass. While this may seem to be a straightforward task, it has much liturgical significance. The Roman Missal states the faithful should ordinarily receive hosts consecrated at the Mass which they are attending. The sacristan must estimate the number of parishioners at each Mass, placing only enough hosts in the large communion bowl for current use. At the conclusion of Mass the sacristan extinguishes the altar candles, cleans and stores the communion vessels, and finally turns out the lights.

**Now that you know the varied duties of the sacristans at Sacred Heart, here is a brief bio on each.**

## Gerald "Jerry" Borer

Jerry is the sacristan for the Saturday 5 p.m. liturgy. He has been a life-long Lorain County resident, having grown up in Amherst and currently residing just east of Wakeman. In addition to being a sacristan, Jerry is actively involved in the Catholic faith as a Eucharistic minister, and he regularly attends adoration at Sacred Heart the second Tuesday of each month. He used to say a rosary for his parents just before the beginning of Mass, but he can't do that anymore because of his sacristan duties. He was previously active in the Knights of Columbus and is Past Grand Knight of Council 4891 at St. Joseph parish in Amherst. He was in the Army for two years and spent 6 months in Vietnam, where he was injured by a 60mm mortar. For that, he received the Purple Heart. *[Thank you for your service and sacrifice.]*



Jerry has a brother, Fr. Robert (Bob) Borer, a retired priest of the Steubenville Diocese who currently lives in Cambridge, Ohio; a twin sister, Carol, and a younger brother, David. Carol and David are both parishioners at St. Joseph Church in Amherst.

## Henry DeLeon



Henry is sacristan for the Sunday 10 a.m. liturgy. He moved to Oberlin two years ago to enjoy the varied experience a college town could offer. Although relatively new to Oberlin, Henry is a lifelong resident of Lorain County and has been a Roman Catholic since he was 4 years old.

Coming from a large family (14 brothers and sisters), Henry developed a habit of being an early riser, a trait that serves him well as sacristan. The DeLeon siblings are also a musical family, and Henry still enjoys a salsa beat, which he accompanies with a variety of percussion instruments, including the steel drum. In addition to his role as sacristan, Henry finds that his practice of meditative prayer brings him closer to God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jerry and Henry each say their role as sacristan has enriched their lives by providing the opportunity to serve the people of Sacred Heart. They may be behind the scenes, but their work is such a necessary part of our Eucharistic celebration.

Thank you, Jerry and Henry.

*Brian Barbuto*

*Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose mercy endures forever.  
(Dn 3:89)*

**Sacred Heart Parish  
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## **ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER**

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If you would like to comment on an article you've seen in the newsletter ...  
If you would like to suggest people or topics to be covered in the newsletter ...  
If you are part of a ministry that we haven't yet covered in the newsletter ...

Please write to [sacredheart1newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheart1newsletter@gmail.com) ... OR

Write a note and place it – signed and with contact information – in the sacristy or at the parish office during regular office hours, which are posted in the bulletin.

***Thank you for helping this be a PARISH newsletter ...  
written by and for parishioners.***