

Cursillo THE ARK

Toledo Diocesan Cursillo Mission Statement: Cursillo is a Catholic Lay Movement embraced by the Diocese of Toledo to bring hearts closer to Jesus Christ in order to transform society and be of service to the whole church. It is our mission to form small Christian Communities to deepen Spirituality in ourselves and in others.

June 2021

Application Forms are on the Website: www.cursillo419.org

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Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Men's September 16-19, 2021

Women's October 14-17, 2021

**Please share how
Christ is working in
your life.**

**Email
Nancy Cook at
nancy750@bex.net**

Greetings to all my beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

DeColores to all! Alleluia! Praise the Lord! It is finally 'over': the social distancing, the masks, and all the other restrictions we've been living under for these past 11 months. The virus is still around, and it might come back to bite us again, but at least we have a reprieve for now, and just in time for our summer activities.

So much has been shelved by the great "unknown" that we have to get it all back out a figure out how to get going again. Team meetings for the Fall are getting underway in earnest and our friend Zoom will now be a sometime addition to actual in person meetings. Thank you, Sr Edna, for faithfully providing access to the Zoom platform for all of our Secretariat and School of Leaders meetings. Your expertise is an answer to prayers.

What have you learned from the Coronavirus experience? From quarantine, to distancing and no personal touch or hugs in our greetings? To 'not knowing' what was really going on from conflicting news stories and opposing "experts' " opinions?

I've been thinking about our Cursillo methodology, prayer, study and action and how that is an ingrained part of our lives now -hopefully it is in our daily living practice. That we can rely on that simple triangle of living, learning, and growing and sharing our faith as a proven pathway back to some normalcy.

How many people outside your core circle of influence, family, group reunion, close friends know that you are a Catholic and a Cursillista? Do they know it by how you live your faith, by your words and actions? Do you use the name "Jesus" in your conversations?

While the circle of concern can be very broad, there is not a whole lot that we can influence on a grand scale, but our circle of influence can make a big difference. And it is this circle must always be expanding. After all Jesus started with twelve and we have just heard how this small band has exponentially grown to even include you and me.

I imagine lots of folks have found live streaming Masses so very convenient over these past several months. Let's reach out to them and not only invite them back to church but into our group reunion. Share a meal and friendship. Remember this core principle: "Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring that friend to know Jesus." As you develop a relationship with your friend you can share ideas from the weekend rollos, after all, it is simply the Kerygma of our faith.

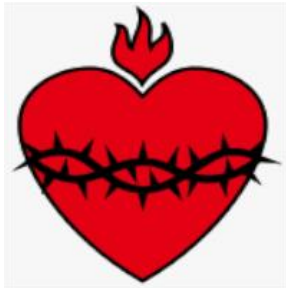
Remember, we are the Church, and the Holy Spirit is abiding in us and directing us if we allow him to. Mary and Joseph give us great examples of how we follow the Holy Spirit's lead.

Now that the restrictions are over, and we can get back to personal meetings especially the TEAM meetings for the Fall Weekends. We need candidates people. NOW! Please don't wait.

Happy Summer to all.

Let's keep each other in prayer.

Fr Jim



Lay Director

(Each month one of our Lay Director's will write an article)

Pentecost: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

A lot of power in that prayer my friends! God has given us the Holy Spirit to inspire us in love! WOW! Just think about it. And Pentecost isn't just one day. No, it is a season! To go out following in the footsteps of the apostles. They feared for their lives after Jesus was killed. I would feel the same; wouldn't you? They knew who Jesus was, The Son of God. And He was killed! But the Holy Spirit came and empowered the 12 as they huddled in the upper room with Mary.

Have you ever put yourself in the room with them? I have. Afraid to step out to what God is calling me to do. Afraid of failure, being laughed at, of what others were thinking. But God knows all of that. That is precisely why He sent us the Holy Spirit. To enable us to trust Him more than we trust ourselves. To be Christ's hands, feet, ears, eyes, voice, arms. To be His body in this world.

As Jesus said to those gathered in the upper room, PEACE! He told them not to be afraid...of anything. He has given us the courage to step out in His name. To bring sight to the blind, healing to the lame and the sick, peace to those who are afraid. Yes, we are called to be lights to the world! To bloom where we are planted. Don't worry about what others think or say. As Jesus told His apostles when they asked if Judas would stay, "What concern is it of yours? You follow me."

So, in this season of growth, let us all reach out to those in need, following Christ's teachings. Let us bloom right where God has planted us. Take up our crosses and follow Him!

May the peace of Christ always disturb your life!

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat kotermat04@gmail.com

Pre-Cursillo

"Rejoice in hope; Be patient under trial; Persevere in prayer." (Romans 12;12)

I came across this verse from Romans many years ago, but have only in the last few years really reflected on its meaning in my life. It packs so much into such a short verse.

"Rejoice in hope". Do we take the time each day to rejoice in hope? We have just completed the Easter season with the feast of Pentecost. We had 50 days of rejoicing in our Risen Lord. As I have reflected on this, I know that I don't always rejoice in hope, that I can forget to rejoice in the little things of life: a smile; a hug from a little one; an unexpected note or phone call; a beautiful day. The list could go on and on. By just taking a few moments to rejoice in what is around me, I find more hope in my life, and then am able to rejoice in that hope.

"Be patient under trial". Patience is not one of my strong suits! It can be so much easier to be impatient, especially when I cannot control what is happening. But I have found that when I want to be impatient with something, if I take a couple of deep breaths, and offer it to God, I find the patience I need. It doesn't always mean that the situation is any easier, just that I have a better outlook.

"Persevere in prayer". This is the most important part of the verse to me. By persevering in prayer, I am able to rejoice and be patient. I know that the Lord is with me, giving me the strength, energy, and peace that I need for whatever comes my way. It's not always easy, but it sure gives me what I need.

How do you live this verse from Romans out in your life? Take some time to reflect on this. It will bring about amazing things in your life.

As we move into the summer, we continue to prepare for the fall weekends. At this time, I have applications on file for 7 men and 11 women. If you have candidates in mind, now is the time to get those applications in. By having them in early, it makes it that much easier for the Teams to plan for the weekends. Candidate and Sponsor applications can be found on the Cursillo website (www.cursillo419.org). Please be sure that the forms are completely filled out, and signed by the candidate, yourself, and the pastor, before sending in.

Have a great summer, rejoicing in hope, being patient under trial, and persevering in prayer.

DeColores!

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Make a Friend – Be A Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ

Cursillo

Dear Family,

Welcome to Summer! Welcome to God's gracious love and mercy regarding the downturn of the pandemic. Although even as we are able to loosen up some, my heart cries for the people who are not able to do that. India ...

We have received nine team applications for the men's weekend and one application for the ladies. That is pretty exciting! Always hopeful for more. If you have any questions please call, email or snail mail us.

As we journey into June, we are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary! For some reason I had the presence of mind in my youth to pray that God would send me a good Christian man and Catholic would be a bonus! Well, He sure did! Mind you there was just about no one happy about it for whatever their reasons. Across the board the thoughts were, "this will never last". Well, here we are!

For several years, we were part of the St. Agnes pre-Cana team. We talked about married love. We referred to the Scripture from Ephesians 5. We all know it. But what we pointed out was the verse right before. "Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ." Take a deep breath and inhale the beauty of that. Marriage is hard work! Life is hard work! Being a Christian is hard work! Whether we are talking about relationships, jobs, faith, politics it doesn't matter. If we embrace that simple lesson, we will bestow grace and love on everyone we meet "Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ."

DeColores! Happy Summer! Looking forward to your hugs!

Love and Prayers!

The Huffman's



School of Leaders...

Patience is a virtue. This comment is so often used when someone is not exhibiting patience. The fact is that patience as a virtue is a habit. It's a way of showing God's love in situations that are trying. One of the situations that try people most is coping with change. Have we had our share of this over the past year?

Unfortunately, change is a constant in life. It is always happening, and little is under our individual control. However, with patience and a willingness to work toward positive solutions that reflect God's call to peace, even change can produce results beyond the expected. We should all reflect on the virtue of patience and how God wants us to use it to change our daily life.

Our next School of Leaders meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday June 19, 2021 @ 9:00 AM.

Scripture reading with reflection: Karen Bonen.

Spiritual Advisors presentation: Fr. Jim Brown, Chapter 8 of "His Way" by Fr. David Knight (available on Amazon and the National Cursillo Website)

Lay presentation: Brian Blevins, Chapter 9 of "The Study of the Charism", OMCC (available on National Cursillo Website. www.natl-cursillo.org)

If you plan to attend this Zoom meeting, please contact Karen Bonen via email at karenbonen@yahoo.com by Wednesday, June 16 with your email address. Invitations will be sent out with instructions on how to connect to the Zoom account on Thursday June 17. We realize that the Zoom approach has been one of those changes we needed to have patience with these past few months. While it isn't the same as in person meeting, it is still a very good way to stay in touch, to see each other, and continue to share our experience, strength, and hope. At this time, we are planning on this being our last Zoom meeting and will be returning to St. Michael's in Findlay for our August School of Leaders. There will be no School of Leaders meeting in July. Watch the Ark for further updates. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!

May your days be filled with God's Peace and Love!
John and Karen Bonen, Rectors



Fourth Day

Be generous with your gifts our Fourth Day Cursillistas!

Let's take a little direction from Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans. In Romans 12:6 he states "since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them." Paul is encouraging us to use our talents. I think included in this, he is encouraging us to use our talents for Cursillo. To improve and help our movement but more importantly to bring opportunities to both the friends we have yet to make and those God has blessed us with today.

How can we help? Where do we go? What do we do? The Toledo Cursillo Movement is looking for our brothers and sisters to help throughout the organization. We need you to step forward and volunteer for some very important positions. The three-year terms of some of our Secretariat members are coming to an end. We need successors to continue the success we've had in providing the Toledo Diocese with the opportunity to expand our membership. Our secretariat is looking for help with the **School of Leaders, Pre-Cursillo** and our **Communications** positions. Yes, they all require a little work and some of your valuable time. These may seem like difficult positions to fill but I think you'll find it may be so much more. I have found my job as fun and rewarding, and found some new lifelong friends. Friends who not only bring fellowship and love but also help to deepen my faith in Christ.

There's plenty of help all-around to assist you in each or any of these endeavors. I think you'll find it rewarding. This is an opportunity for you to grow while helping others and our movement grow. Please contact one of our Secretariat members including your post Cursillo team, Karen and John Reinhart or Luanne and John Welch and explore these opportunities. I personally invite you to join us. Please contact us and we can talk about you becoming the next member of our Secretariat. Listen to Saint Paul and come join us.

Your Post Cursillo Team,

Karen and John Reinhart, phone: 419 722-4257, email: kittyrg1967@gmail.com

Luanne and John Welch, phone: 419 478-3610, email: john4toledo@yahoo.com

Prayervine:

Prayer requests....Fr. Thelan - pulmonary embolism, Adam - ventricular fibrillation, Fr. Frank - heart procedure, Marie - cancer, Mary - passed away, Tito - starting dialysis, Barb - knee surgery, Rita - open heart surgery, cousin - ovarian cancer, friend's husband - pancreatic cancer, Fr. Frank - heart surgery, friend - trachea cancer, a special intention, Marilyn Lovell - knee infection, Quinton - many changes, Aaron - attempted suicide, Tami's dad - passed away.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.



Secretariat Member openings

When we first went to the School of Leaders, we were so surprised at how comfortable we felt there. It felt like a 3-hour Cursillo weekend. (condensed version) We couldn't wait to go again the following month. Our love for SOL has grown immensely over the years. We were honored to serve as rector for the last 4 years. We have learned so much about our movement and have grown in our faith because of it. The School of Leaders is in need of new Rectors. Please take a moment and prayerfully consider this position within our movement.

John & Karen Bonen

Do you love our Cursillo movement? Do you feel called to be more involved? The School of Leaders is in need of new rectors starting in July 2021. Ask the Holy Spirit if this is something that you could do. Spend some time in prayer and see if this might work for you. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact John & Karen Bonen (karenbonen@yahoo.com) or call/text us at 419-563-5115. We have been blessed beyond measure!

Other openings happening in June, 2021

Pre-Cursillo

Post-Cursillo (4th day)

Hispanic Representative

Communications

Please reflect on these openings and hear the Holy Spirit to be the Hands, Feet and Voice of Jesus, you can continue to grow in your faith!

We have received word that Fr. David Knight, author of *His Way: An Everyday Plan for Following Jesus*, has died. He was on a missionary trip to Guatemala and ready to return to his home diocese in Memphis, TN when the US borders were closed due to COVID. So he stayed in Guatemala, where unfortunately he contracted COVID, and succumbed to it in March of this year. Please pray for this faithful servant of God who gave his life in sharing the Good News. Those of us who have been enriched through the discussion of his book at School of Leaders, know the great wisdom, fidelity, and common sense of this man.

Question of the month - WHAT DOES CURSILLO MEAN TO ME

Please put your thoughts or feelings into a couple of sentences. Your responses will be compiled and put on our website in the future.

Please send your response to Nancy Cook at nancy750@bex.net

'What a shame it would be if someone came looking for Christ and only found us! But what a blessing if they came looking for us and found Christ!!'

Eduardo Bonnin, Founder Cursillo Movement

NATIONAL CURSILLO INFORMATION:

www.natl-cursillo.org Read about Cursillo news, palanca requests from around the world, or read the national newsletter.

CURSILLO WEBSITE: www.cursillo419.org Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.

