

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.

Spiritual Advisor

(Each month, a Spiritual Advisor will write an article)

Make a Difference

By: Deacon Greg Kirk

November, 2022

Application Forms are on the

Website: www.cursillo419.org

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The ancestors of many Irish Americans emigrated to the U.S. early in the nineteenth century. For that reason, many Irish Americans aren't connected to family living in Ireland, often only knowing the County that their ancestors came from. My Great Grandmother Julia O'Connell emigrated to the United States in 1896 at the age of sixteen. Because my Grandmother came over late, my family has always been connected to our Cousins in Ireland.

At the end of September, Shelly and I along with an Irish American couple from our parish spent two weeks in Ireland on the farm my Grandmother grew up on. My Cousin Jim is a healthy, active seventy five year old retired farmer (who still does some farming!). Jim and his wife Anne live on my Grandmother's homestead. They own a very nice cottage next door that their adult children and grandchildren stay in when they are visiting. Jim and Anne invited us to stay in the cottage that sits on my Great Great Grandfather Batt O'Connell's 220 acre farm.



The first morning I woke up in the cottage it was still dark out. I hurried and got dressed, made coffee and anxiously awaited the sunrise. As the sun came up, I raced outside periodically to take pictures of my surroundings as the light and colors changed. They were nothing less than spectacular. I looked out the living room window down to the Atlantic Ocean, and the colorful mountains of County Kerry.

I sipped my coffee and looked down the long road through the bog and pastures to the highway, reflecting on the fact that in the middle of the night one night in 1865, my Great Great Grandfather Batt was arrested by the British and taken away in handcuffs because a jealous neighbor who wanted his farm accused him of being an Irish Catholic rebel called a Fenian. He was held and tried, found innocent and permitted to return to his family.

Upcoming 2023 Cursillo Weekends

Men's March 9-12
Women's April 20-23

**Please share how Christ is working in your life.
Email Nancy Cook at nancy750@bex.net**

I next recalled that on the same road I was looking at as the sun danced on it, my Grandmother Julia rode down it at the age of sixteen to head to America to build a life there, likely knowing she would she never see her parents or Ireland again. She never did.

Finally, I remembered a six year old boy who was greatly enthralled with his Great Grandmother, who spoke with an Irish brogue accent and always carried her rosary, praying it every day. Even at that young age, he knew his Grandmother was extremely special, and was touched by her hope, her faith, and her easy, loving way with people. As the boy grew and learned more about her life, her losses, her courage, and her faith, he became deeply affected and knew he wanted the kind of faith that she lived with.



Its been fifty nine years since I was six years old but I have not and will never lose my appreciation and love for my Grandmother. I carried the rosary she prayed with under my vestments at my ordination twenty six years ago. I still pray with it today. Her faith helped to form my faith. Her example is still one I desire to follow. Loving God, loving family, loving neighbor and always looking for the good in people and in life was her way. I'm still trying to make that my way.

Sometimes, it's human to wonder if what we are doing makes a difference. Sometimes, it's natural to wonder if our children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors will want to more deeply live a spiritual life because of our desire to live that life.

Keep trying to make a difference in your environments. Keep striving to be a voice of peace, a voice of hope, keep trying to be a person of love. Because of Him.

You can make a difference
in the world.

It's possible you will never know how you affected the faith lives of others positively. But they will know. And Christ will know. And that is enough.

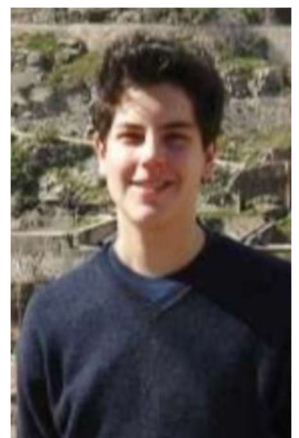
Keep making a difference and leave the future to Him. After all, its been His all along.

Lay Director (Each month, one of our Lay Directors will write an article.)

There is much to appreciate during the month of November. For me and for many, it's a special time of remembrance. We start the month with the Feast of All Saints where we remember the saints whose lives have often given us such simple yet profound ways to follow Christ.

In my mind, I'm seeing the picture I saw recently of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the teenage saint from Italy. It was from Oct. 2020, when his tomb was opened for public veneration prior to his beatification. His body had been clothed in a light jacket, jeans, and tennis shoes, not what I would expect a "saint" to wear, yet so appropriate for him.

Carlos is best known for documenting Eucharistic miracles around the world and cataloguing them onto a website which he created before his death from leukemia. He was noted for his cheerfulness, computer skills, and deep devotion to the Eucharist, which became a core theme of his life. His life is an example I want to follow! (Especially his cheerfulness and deep devotion to the Eucharist.)





What we also celebrate this month is the Feast of All Souls, a wonderful opportunity to remember those who have entered their eternal rest. There's a hymn that I love, "Saints and Beloved of God", that has a line that brings me much comfort when remembering those who have passed on: "For the saints of the past and present, for the saints of our family and friends, they have found their home in Christ the Lord, whose kingdom never ends." What peace and comfort we have in knowing that our loved ones who have gone before us are safely at home in the arms of Our Lord!

Of course, November gives us a holiday to celebrate our thankfulness! As followers of Christ, we are thankful every day for the gift of the Resurrection, the gift of the Eucharist, the gift of our brothers and sisters in Christ who accompany and support us on this earthly journey. How blest we are to be able to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with family, friends, all those whom God has placed in our lives to love and nurture. From 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." We all have much to be thankful for!



Peace, prayers, and blessings to all of you!
De Colores!

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com
Kathy Otermat kotermat04@gmail.com

Pre-Cursillo



Nothing new to report this month. Spring 2023 Cursillos will be here before too long! Candidate and sponsor apps can be found on our website: www.cursillo419.org. Now is the time to... make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ!

Gary & Helen Keel
4236 Woodmont Rd, Toledo Oh 43613
419-476-9347
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Make a Friend – Be A Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ

Cursillo

Please send us your team applications for the Ladies & Men's 2023 Spring weekends.

The forms can be found on our website: www.cursillo419.org.
The dates are: Men's March 9-12, 2023; Women's April 20-23, 2023.

Love and Prayers, The Huffmans
3823 Willys Parkway
Toledo Oh 43612
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School of Leaders

Greetings to all my Cursillo family!

What a brilliant October we were blessed with this year!



Now we celebrate our month of Thanksgiving, beginning with All Saints Day and All Souls Day. There are so many folks gone ahead of us to pray from heaven for our needs and guide us with their examples. I can't think of a better way to begin this month of gratitude than remembering them and counting our blessings.

Yes, we have many challenges these days, some personal and some within our country and world, but we have this Cursillo family and all the opportunities to grow together on our faith journeys. We have a country where we can vote to elect people to represent us and the values we hold dear, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us on the right paths.



We have a little break from School of Leaders until January now since we have Focus Day this month. Check out the details in the flyer within this Ark. We will see you there!

Blessings and Hugs,

Rectors:

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net, Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

Prayervine



Gwen Achen - passed away, Matt & Theresa Fisher - car accident, Matt Fisher - heart surgery, for Cursillo's being lived everywhere, Bob Drewior - bunion surgery, Maxwell Heitkamp - newborn needing surgery, "Bear" - seizures & behavior issues, Denny & Mary Lou Wilwerding - injuries from fall and pulmonary hypertension, Joanne - broken bones, Bob - healing from bunion surgery, Pat Miller - bowel issues.

Fourth Day

Our Sisters and Brothers,

Are you ready? It is coming soon. Happens every year. It could start in either November or December. What is it? Advent! The season of preparation for Christians. Once again many of us focus our prayer life during Advent. Some add fasting or a spirit of giving to others.





Are you ready? I hope I can be. This year it will all begin on November 27th. A chance to begin again. To ready ourselves for the coming of Jesus. Want to know more? Focus Day will be Saturday November 12, 2022. This year's theme is *Exploring Advent*. A chance to learn about the season and the reason for Advent. See some of the practices we see and share each year. The how and why of Advent. (See flyer below)

Come join us on Saturday 12, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We will be at St. Wendelin's Parish Hall in Fostoria, Ohio. We will provide a light and continental breakfast. Water and coffee will be available throughout the day. We ask you bring your own sack lunch and drink. We will also have soups available with lunch. Come join us for a day of learning, song, food and fellowship.

Your 4th Day Team
Betty and Bill Obringer
Luanne and John Welch

Exploring Advent



Fall Focus Day, 2022

- When: Saturday November 12
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Where: St Wendelin's Parish
Hall, Fostoria Ohio

Come join us as we explore Advent, its history and traditions. Come see and have fellowship with your Cursillo family! Share your advent stories.

We will provide a light and continental breakfast. Water and coffee will be available throughout the day. We ask you bring your own sack lunch and drink. We will also have soups available with lunch. Of course, please bring along your singing voice!

Ultreayas

Toledo area Ultraya is scheduled to be at St. Clement on the 2nd Sunday of the month. For November, it will be Sunday November 13th in Jaeger Hall at 2 pm.



The November Ultraya for Area 8 will be held at Bethlehem Sacred Heart on Monday, November 14th, from 7-9 PM in the activity center. (Building to the right of the church when you pull into the parking lot). All are welcome!

The November Ultraya for the Lima area is scheduled to be at St. Charles Church which is located on the corner of West Elm Street and South Cable Road. It will take place on Sunday evening, November 13th, from 7:00 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space on the south side of the church.

Area 10 (Tiffin area) is holding an Ultraya on Sunday, November 27th at St. Joseph Church in Tiffin at 7 pm. It will be held in the Upper Room.

Palanca

November- the month to give thanks. What are you really thankful for? I am thankful for the love of our God and Savior. I am thankful for the freedoms we have in this great country. I am thankful for my family, friends and job. I am thankful for you for reading this article each month. DeColores, Jan

Start	End	Cursillo	Location
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's (English)	Manchester, NH
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's 22 (Spanish)	Washington, D.C
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's 475 (Spanish)	Dallas, TX
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's 10 (spanish)	Laredo, TX
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's 38 (Portug)	Santarem - Portugal
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Womens 104 (English)	Rockford, IL
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's 113 (English)	Orlando, FL
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Men's 32 (Spanish)	Michoacán de Ocampo.
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Men's 15 (Spanish)	Lafayette, IN
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's Cursillo	Spokane, WA
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Men's 1014	Los Angeles, CA
11/3/2022	11/6/2022	Women's 114	Covington, KY
11/4/2022	11/7/2022	Men's Cursillo	San Jose del Guaviare
11/11/2022	11/13/2022	Men's 458	Outaouais, Québec
11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Men's Cursillo	Omaha, NE
11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Women's 66	Kansas City, KS
11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Men's Cursillo	Balatonalmádi, Hungary

11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Women's 139	Torreon, Coah
11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Men's 948	Phoenix, AZ
11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Men's 50	Trenton, NJ
11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Men's Cursillo	Los Angeles, CA
11/10/2022	11/13/2022	Women's 32	Michoacán de Ocampo.
11/17/2022	11/20/2022	Women's Cursillo	Balatonalmádi, Hungary
11/17/2022	11/20/2022	Women's 949	Phoenix, AZ
11/17/2022	11/20/2022	Women's 117	Springfield - Cape Girardeau, MO
11/17/2022	11/20/2022	Women's Cursillo	Los Angeles, CA
11/17/2022	11/20/2022	Men's 64	Tyler, TX
11/17/2022	11/20/2022	Women's 15	Lafayette, IN
11/17/2022	11/20/2022	Men's 412	Detroit, MI
11/18/2021	11/21/2022	Cursillo. CDC	New York, NY
11/24/2022	11/27/2022	Men's 151	San Jose, CA
11/27/2022	11/30/2022	Men's Cursillos	Spokane, WA

Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings

Communications

Cursillo

Post-Cursillo (4th day) - additional persons for team

Palanca



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!

'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.

