



# 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.

## January 2024

Application Forms are on the Website:

[www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org)

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## Our Spiritual Advisor

### Ark Spiritual Directors Article

What sacrifice or virtue do you want to work on for the Lord in the new year as a gift for the Christ Child; for *Palanca* for our upcoming Cursillo weekends? One suggestion is working on humility and that requires sacrifice.

Humility is the act of being Humble. It is the virtue by which we acknowledge that all good comes from God; always putting God's will and the needs of others before ours.

Thinking back over the course of my life, the people that have made the most impact on me as a person, were, and are the humblest people I have had in my life. To name a few:

- My Mother – Putting her needs aside for our family; always serving in our parish or being of assistance to friends and relatives, not judging others;
- My first grade teacher - Sister Carmel, Precious Blood Sister;
- Mr. Siegel, my H.S. Industrial Arts teacher;
- Ernie – One of the men I served with in the U.S.A.F. with in Texas;
- Charles – My father-in-law;
- Fr. Tom Wehinger – One of our former pastors who has passed away;
- Several men and women in my parish;
- And Several Saints who intercessions I request daily.

## Toledo Cursillo Weekends

### Spring

Men--- March 7 - 10

Women-- April 11 - 14

### Fall

Men--Sept. 12 - 15

Women--Oct. 17 - 20



People who seek humility, who are always trying to do God's will, putting His plan for their lives and the needs of others first, are always the ones whose lives bear the most fruit in our lives and in the world. Consider - Jesus, Mary, Joseph, All of the Saints, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King and Saint John Paul II.

St, Luke's Gospel for Dec. 24, just passed, narrates the Annunciation – Mary giving God her permission to send his Holy Spirit to conceive in her womb His son Jesus, our

savior. Next to Jesus' death and resurrection it is the most important event that ever happened in the history of the world. Because of Mary's choice, the human race has hope of heaven.

Notice all of the humility in this passage: the Angels are spectacular – but are humble and obedient to God's will. The Angel Gabriel was not sent to Jerusalem or Rome, but to the humble little town of Nazareth in the humblest and most remote area of Israel. He was sent to humble peasants, descendants of King David. St. Joseph was so humble that not a single word of his is recorded in Scripture. Mary, like God, in all of her miraculous appearances over the next 2,000 years chooses humble places to appear: to St. Juan Diego in Mexico, to Bernadette at Lourdes, France and the peasant children at Fatima, Portugal.

If God is so consistently humble, how dare we be proud or arrogant?

There never has been and never will be a merely human being as high and holy and so totally full of divine grace as Mary. But Mary's highness is her lowliness, her humility (She referred to herself as Handmaid of the Lord). And this was not because she was afraid of God or His angel, but because she was too humble to think of herself as special.

The saintlier you are as a person, the less self-centered you are. Mary did not think of herself as bad (that's not humility). Humble people don't think of themselves as good or bad, they just don't think of themselves at all. They only think of doing God's will. Mary is full of God's grace, not of herself. Mary knew God much better than we do because of her humility, her total openness to God.

As we think about a New Year's resolution, let's think about what gift we are going to give the Christ Child now, and our Heavenly Father in the year 2024 ahead. The best gift, and the best *Palanca* that I can think to give Him is to seek the Humility of the Holy Family Jesus, Mary and Joseph; and total openness to God.

Deacon Denny Scherger, Cursillo 115



## Lay Director

Happy New Year!



As often as I share this greeting as a new year is approaching or has just arrived, it usually has a unique meaning for me. Some years, it is the hope of a new year that doesn't have the difficult losses or changes that I've experienced in the past year. Sometimes, it is the hope of a new year that is already inviting me into the excitement of events to come that look to bring much joy and/or fulfillment. At other times, there is a peace with the knowledge that although I don't know of something special to look forward to in the coming year or have experienced a past year that was particularly challenging, God is still in control (as usual!), and I don't have to fear the future or regret the past.

This year, I came upon (by God's providence!), the Surrender Novena written by Padre Pio's Spiritual Director, Servant of God Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo. The Novena contains 9 days of prayers that Jesus spoke to Fr. Ruotolo, each day ending with "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!", recited 10 times. I prayed the 9-day Novena, then prayed it again 2 more times. I couldn't sustain that practice but have found myself (usually several times daily) praying, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!" And Jesus does. He continually answers my prayer for Him to take care of everything, often with surprises that exceed anything I could have hoped for.

I have appreciated this verse from Jeremiah 29:11 "Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." It has been a source of peace and comfort for many years. The verses from Proverbs 3:5-6 have also been a good reminder of who is in control of my life. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." The prayer of surrendering myself has helped to more frequently connect me with my loving Jesus who desires me with His whole heart, who wants nothing for me but what is best for me.

I am looking forward to this new year with the hope that I can become ever more joined to Jesus, my Lord and Savior, the One who came to this earth to teach us how to love and to show us how to surrender ourselves to the will of the Father. Ultreya!

Your brother and sister in Christ,  
John Lyons  
Kathy Otermat

## Pre-Cursillo

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! (If you ran out of cookies let us know - we still have some left and I'm running out of extra notches in my belt - Helen outdid herself on baking this time:).

The holidays are a great time to work on developing your potential candidates for the Spring weekends and ensuring they know when the weekends are. Did you find time to get together with them? These are also the times to reach out to those who you have attempted to bring to a past weekend that were not able to make it.

The clock is ticking towards the Spring weekends. Now is the time to work on getting your candidate applications in the works. Don't forget there is a section for you complete and one the parish priest to sign off on. And as always, don't forget the importance of the sponsor's application.

**The Men's weekend is March 7th thru March 10th, 2024 and the Women's weekend is April 11th thru April 14th, 2024.**

Looking forward to receiving your applications.

Now's the time to Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ.

Gary & Helen Keel

[hkeel@buckeye-express.com](mailto:hkeel@buckeye-express.com)

419-476-9347



## Cursillo

Hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and New Year. If you would like to be on the Men's Cursillo Team in the Fall or the Women's Cursillo Team in the Spring and the Fall. Please get your Team Application to Robert Drewior, [robertdrewior774@gmail.com](mailto:robertdrewior774@gmail.com) or Dave Zaborski, [dzaborski@gmail.com](mailto:dzaborski@gmail.com).

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God Bless DeColores ---- Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

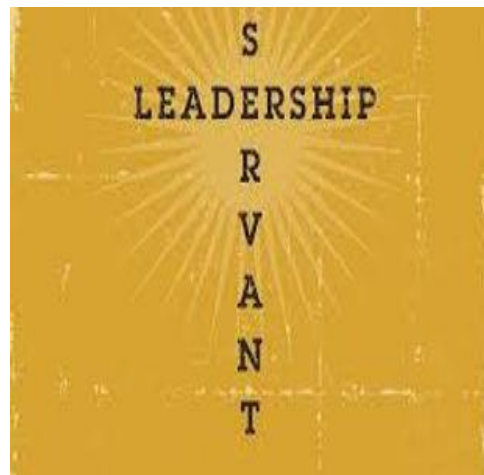


## School of Leaders :

Hi to all Brothers and Sisters in Christ. As we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we look again at what it truly means to be a Child Of God. And we remember why we are here is this life. We give our God thanks and praise.

We are back again at School Of Leaders on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>. Same time 9am-12pm. At St.Michael in Findlay Oh. It will be great to see everyone again. Please invite someone who might not have been to SOL in a while, or even not at all.

The coffee will be on for you. Please bring a snack to share if you are so inclined.



Rectors: Annie Blum [annieblum516@gmail.com](mailto:annieblum516@gmail.com)  
Walter Beckford [wbeckford@bex.net](mailto:wbeckford@bex.net)

# Prayer Vine



*request for this month*

Robert Dreior / Shoulder Surgery January 18th  
Patrick Steyer - in hospital, those living first  
Christmas after a family death, Fr. Marty Nassr  
- lymphoma & in hospice, Yvonne Soldan - in

hospital, father of a friend - surgery after a fall, friend with hearing issues, Fr. Marty Nassr - passed away, Gus Miller - heart catheterization, three year old girl - pneumonia, in hospital, Stacy's dad - bad fall, Phyllis - fall & broken nose, Pat Montgomery - heart procedure, friend - surgery to remove lymph node, friend's father - fell, broken & displaced ribs,

## Fourth Day

Not much has been happening since the Dec. ARK. WHAT AM I SAYING! Bill and I have been attending our children's and grand children's Christmas programs. We are doing our best to make this Advent joyous and meaningful as we prepare for Jesus. Now we are entering into a new year with much anticipation of upcoming events. The Cursillo teams are forming for the March and April weekends. We pray that all of you are praying and doing Palanca. Keep Christ in your hearts and prayers on your lips as we make this year the best one ever!

Bill and Betty Obringer and Becky Smeltz.

*The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord  
make His face shine upon you, And be  
gracious to you; The Lord lift up His  
countenance upon you, And give you peace.*

NewYearWiki.Com



Ultreya for areas 7 and 10 is Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Hope to see you then.

Area 8 Ultreya  
January 8, 2024 7:00PM  
Holy Trinity Bucyrus

This will be a regular Ultreya (not a potluck as Previously planned)

All are welcome!



**Please pray, fast, say rosaries, do “palanca” etc. for the Cursillistas and teams as they ready for their events.**

**Witness : share how God is working in your life = email to = [judbrick616@gmail.com](mailto:judbrick616@gmail.com)**

## **Secretariat Member openings**

### ***Current Openings***

#### ***Facilities***

**Please** reflect on this opening 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](http://www.natl-cursillo.org) Read about Cursillo news, palanca requests from around the world, or read the national newsletter.

**TOLEDO CURSILLO WEBSITE:** [www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org) Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month’s Ark or download forms.