



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.

AUGUST 2023

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

Greetings Cursillistas. As I am writing this, I am getting ready to enter a new phase in my life. Some people call this phase “retirement”. It is a time in our lives that is filled with the unknown which makes some of us a little apprehensive. Whenever we enter into the unknown, we have to trust. We have to trust that we have prepared ourselves for what may lie ahead and we have to trust that God will provide. So it becomes a time in which we should develop a close relationship with the Holy Spirit, if we haven’t done so yet.

In Paul’s Letter to the Romans he says, “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit itself bears witness with

our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.” (Romans 8:14-17) Do we not have an awesome God?! I mean, what god does that? Think about it for a moment, the God of the Universe, the God who created everything that is seen and unseen desires to call us sons and daughters and what’s more, we are coheirs of the Kingdom with God in the person of Jesus Christ. Our God is not one who lords His power over us, but rather He desires to bring us into His family. There has never been any other god throughout all of human history that has desired to have a relationship with mortal man.

If we truly believe that, then we should have nothing to fear no matter what comes our way. Think back for a moment to the weekend in which you lived your Cursillo. On the last day of the weekend, were you afraid? Or did you feel that the Holy Spirit was with you? From my perspective, I did not want to leave Sunday evening. I found Jesus there with those men and I wanted to stay with them, but that’s not what we are called to do. We are not to keep the Spirit that God has given us to ourselves, we are to take Him out and let Him be known by all those in which we come in contact. We should never forget our mission: “Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.” Our lives

are full of changes or new phases, and these are and should be viewed as opportunities to bring other people to Christ. No matter where we are, we should by word and deed spread the Gospel. I think we can all agree that in the world we live in today, there is a desperate need for people to know the real Jesus Christ. Not the one who is “just” a nice person who lived a long time ago, but the one who IS God and the one who wants to bring us into relationship with Him. For us to bring Christ to others, we must first know Him and we get to know Him through the three legs of the stool. Piety, Study, and Action. As we desire to get closer to God (piety), we want to learn more about Him (study), and as we learn more, we want to share our love for Him (action).

Each new day brings with it new challenges and new opportunities and we have so little time on earth. As the Psalmist says: “Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty, if we are strong; Most of them are toil and sorrow; they pass quickly, and we are gone.” (Psalm 90:10) So we need to make the most of our time here on earth. We do that by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

As we continue life’s journey, let us be mindful that when we begin a new “phase” in our lives it is also a new opportunity to bring others to Christ and that God the Father has given us not a spirit of slavery, but rather a Spirit of adoption and therefore, as His sons and daughters, we have nothing to fear.

Ultreya,
Deacon Bruce Alge



LAY DIRECTOR

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

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ!! Do you remember this prayer?

God, grant me the **Serenity** to accept the things I cannot change... the **Courage** to change the things I can... and the **Wisdom** to know the difference. There are 3 words that jump out at me and maybe you.

Let’s explore those 3 words one at a time.

Serenity, the state of being calm, peaceful, untroubled. Or the absence of mental stress or anxiety. Anyone out there “stressed out” about anything? I think that if we are honest with ourselves the answer is yes at some point in our lives. Some more often than others. But stress and anxiety abound in this world. So we (myself included) need to ask God (constantly) to grant us calmness especially when we just have to accept things/life/circumstances the way they are when we cannot change them.

I believe this is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit...Peace!!!!

Courage, the ability to do something that frightens us! Trusting in the Lord as our true source of strength. I think of the times when I felt God say GO! And I say, me? And He says YES, YOU ! But I don't.....(you fill in the blank) because we have all been there. And God is with us every step of the way every single time. We (myself included) have to step out in faith when God asks us to go somewhere or do something that we are very uncomfortable about. God is with us (a song by King and Country). To step out in faith to do what HE has in mind for us to do. Whether it is changing myself (ouch) or something else. STEP OUT.

And then there is Wisdom: knowledge, and the capacity to make due use of it (Webster) or the understanding and knowledge that comes from a deep connection to one's inner self and the divine. Hmmmm. Wisdom to know the difference between what I can change and what I cannot. In this prayer it's not about how to change someone or something else. No, I believe it is about having the knowledge/wisdom to know *the difference*. Sometimes what I want to change is just not going to happen. At least not at this particular moment in time.

Lord I need you to help me know the difference. To feel the peacefulness of your love that is always within me. And to have the strong will to step out in faith when you ask me to. Amen.

John Lyons Kathy Otermat

PRE-CURSILLO

We still have not received any applications for either fall Cursillo Weekend. Looking forward to staying busy typing and sending candidate applications out again! Have been practicing our typing skills. (OK, with mixed results:).

Don't forget to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Gary & Helen Keel

hkeel@buckeye-express.com 419-476-9347

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



**UPCOMING TOLEDO CURSILLO
WEEKENDS
Fall 2023**

MEN #291 September 7 -10

WOMEN #292 October 12- 15



Cursillo

DeColores!

My name is David (Dave) Zaborski. I made Cursillo #133 in the Toledo Cursillo in 1985. I have been active in group reunion since 1985 as well as working several weekends throughout the years.

My name is Robert (Bob) Drewior. I made Cursillo #221 (maybe) in the Toledo Cursillo. I also have been active in group reunion as well as working several weekends throughout the years.

We are taking this opportunity to formally introduce ourselves to the Toledo Cursillo Community. We recently took on the Cursillo position last held by Kathy and Mike Huffman. We hope and pray that we can fill the position as effectively as the Huffman's. We thank the Lord and Mike & Kathy for their efforts.

In conclusion, please feel free to reach out to either one of us if you have questions concerning working on a future Cursillo team, help in finding team members and scheduling team meetings.

Dave Zaborski: cell no. 567-408-9371 Email: Thezaborskifamily@hotmail.com or Dzaborski411@gmail.com

Bob Drewior: cell no. 419-215-9386 Email: robertdrewior774@gmail.com

School of Leaders :

Hello to all my Cursillo family!

There are so many things to love about summer, from the fresh garden produce to reunions, vacations, and just the ability to step outside without spending a bunch of time putting on coats, scarves, gloves, boots and all of that!

The birds, flowers and butterflies add songs & color to our world. Neighbors are out walking and stop for a chat when we are working in the yard. We visit a bit outside church after Masses, sometimes sharing the bounty of our gardens. All of these things bring songs of praise to my heart for the generosity of God who loves us and reaches out to our hearts in so many ways!

While it has been nice to have a month off from meetings, I must say I've sure missed our School of Leaders and all the folks who come.

So, here's the scoop!

Our next School of Leaders will be Sat., August 19 from 9 AM to noon. Doors open @ 8:30.

We will be in the Marian room (first room on the right just after you turn right into the hallway from the entrance) at Findlay St. Michaels.

Scripture and reflection will be by Therese Cherry.

Our spiritual presentation from "Living with Real Presence" by S. James Meyer will be given by Deacon Tom Soper on pp. 33-50 covering "The Human Condition" and "Blessed, Broken and Shared".

Lay presentation will be given by Bill Obringer on the last chapter of "Into His Likeness" by Edward Sri, "The Primacy of the Interior Life" beginning on p 133.

Walter will have copies of our next lay presentation book on hand for \$10.00 each. We have chosen "Rescued" by Fr. John Ricardo.

We will have the hot water & coffee on.

Please bring a snack to share and a friend.

We always have great discussions, music, food & lots of hugs as we grow together in faith giving us strength and encouragement for this journey of life as Cursillistas.

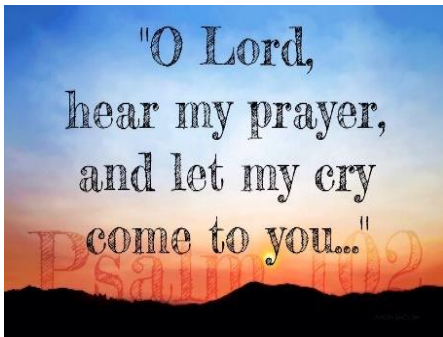
All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

Blessings and Hugs,

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Prayervine



Mike Kahalek - continued healing, Diane - surgery on 7/5, a friend having surgery, Anna Friday - pneumonia, friend - sepsis, John Welch - heart cath & stent, young boy - diagnosed with Chiari Brain Malformation, a special intention, Mike Lemle - passed away, friend whose son passed away. Prayers for a son with pancreatic cancer. Prayers for someone who is having major back issues.

Fourth Day

Hope everyone is having a good and faith filled summer. Just a reminder that the Men's weekend is Sept. 7th to 10th and the women's weekend is Oct. 12th to 15th. If anyone is interested in giving a witness for the Holy Hour or closing please call Bill or Betty at 419-447-6410 (home phone) or text at 419-618-5132. Hope to see all of you at the men's holy hour or closing.



Area 8 Ultreya for August will be Monday, August 14, from 7-9 PM at the Franciscan Activity Center(111 W First St. Mansfield, Oh 44902).

This is just across the street from Mansfield St. Peter's Church. All are welcome!

PS. There is a vigil Mass @ St. Pete's @ 5:30 PM for the feast of the Assumption, so feel free to come early and share in the celebration of Mass.



The Toledo Area 1 & 2 August 13th at 2pm. In Jaeger Hall, St. Clement Parish Toledo.

Area 7 and 10 The next Ultreya in Tiffin is on August 27th at 7pm, St. Joseph Upper room. Peace and God bless. DeColores



PALANCA

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

Hello fellow Cursillistas! Firstly, I want to apologize for not having an article in for the Arc for the month of July. Secondly, because they take precedence, we have 34 upcoming Cursillos in the month of August across the lands. There is more during our winter months but I am sure it is cold in other places. I think it takes great commitment and dedication to run a Cursillo during the summer. God bless them.

I also want to thank each of you who pray for others- whether it be for success of a Cursillo weekend, for those asking for special prayer, or for those who are sick. Me, being the chair of Palanca, has experienced first-hand the extreme power of prayer. Many of you know that I have been very ill over the past several weeks, spending 2 full weeks in the hospital with a few critical diagnoses. Word spread- I’m not sure how, but word spread. I was on several prayer chains (multiple faiths), several of you came to the hospital and said rosaries, and the cards came flowing in. After a 6 day “nap”, when I awakened, I could feel the incredible love of Christ and an overwhelming peace that all was going to be ok. The first words that I remember saying (in my head because I was on a vent) were “Jesus I trust in you”. I said it over and over because I knew at that point I was not in control and who better to control my situation than our Lord. Why am I telling you this story? Because I want you all to know that the power of palanca (prayer) is real, strong, and very powerful. So let us continue to pray for each other and our new brothers and sisters in Christ whether it is through dancing, singing, silent prayer, alone or as a group. Just pray!

God bless you all! Jan Stainbrook



Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF returned to her home community in St. Louis, MO on July 11th. She has ministered in the Diocese of Toledo since the 1980s and has been a faithful and dependable member of our diocesan Cursillo movement, serving on Cursillo teams, writing letters for the ARK and giving presentations at School of Leaders. We will miss her big smile and generous heart. Thanks, Sr. Pat, for all these years spent in loving service to us in the Toledo Diocese! She will be in assisted living, but wants to keep getting the ARK to stay in touch with all that we are doing. If you want to send her a card, her postal address is: Mother of Perpetual Help Residence, 7609 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63119. Her email address remains: patmeyer39@hotmail.com

De Colores! Everyone,

I share this idea with all of you following its acceptance by the Secretariat Board.

We used to do workshops, like Cursillos de Cursillos a sort of follow up to a regular cursillo weekend; and evangelization workshop and others. They were weekend long and sponsored by the Regional Service Team. Our Focus Days came out of that experience.

I am proposing that we do a similar thing as a follow-up to the four weekends each year. It would be held in November as a Focus Day.

FORMAT for the day:

Intended audience:

- For the teams and candidates from the four weekends of the year.
But **open to everyone**.
- When in November of the year.
- One day. Saturday – St Wendelin Hall or maybe Elizabeth Schaefer Auditorium in Tiffin.
- Schedule for the day:
 - Greeting and registration at 8:30 am
 - Opening prayer and **introductions** for the day at 9:00 am
 - Praise and worship song - Troubadors
 - 1st talk – Review of your weekend...kind of a progression talk, emphasis on **Piety**/holiness; **study**/formation; and **action**/evangelization. Also on **Grouping** and **Ultreya**.(Sunday's rollos
 - Ultreya with Grouping (witness from a veteran Cursillista maybe a former Lay Director)
 - Break – light lunch (soup 'n salad)
 - 2nd talk – Developing area Ultreyas and prayer groups
 - Being a sponsor – what does that entail –the ideal sponsor
 - Break and Songs
 - 3rd talk – Explanation of Diocesan structure and recruitment of new



Members. Perhaps something on charisms.

- Break

Mass and Apostolic Holy Hour (with the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)

Closing.

We would need a small team of MC, musicians, Kitchen help, logistics, speakers and witnesses. Advertisement and invitations/registration. Priests, deacons, sisters etc.

Inviting especially the teams and the new Cursillistas from the four weekends of this year.

Team would be four or five people. I am willing to be the Spiritual Director for this retreat.

Respectfully submitted by

Fr Jim Brown



Witness:

Please share how Christ is working in your life. Email to: judbrick616@gmail.com

Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings :

Facilities 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.