



# 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, 2022

Application Forms are on the Website: [www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org)

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## Upcoming 2022 Cursillo Weekends

Men's March  
Women's April

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

Email  
Nancy Cook at  
[nancy750@bex.net](mailto:nancy750@bex.net)

## Spiritual Advisor

(Each month, a Spiritual Advisor will write an article)  
Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My people, "escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him.

Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: I seek your face; your face, Lord, I desire."

These are the words of St. Anselm from the 11th century. (complete writing available here: <https://heartforgodltd.blogspot.com/2011/12/seeking-god.html>).

Yes, even in the eleventh century, which we all probably consider a quieter, simpler, uncluttered time, St. Anselm recognized the need to preach to his flock the importance of seeking God daily to enable them to be in relationship with Him, so that they would be prepared to face the challenges of life in living the commandments and sharing Christ with others.

The most effective practice I have found for my own spirituality is my morning holy hour, normally just in a comfortable chair in our own family room. Sometimes it's a little shorter, sometimes a little longer, but it's the bedrock of a good day for me. I try to start it with a time of silence and then proceed to do the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of The Hours for that day. This is not to say, 'how good I am', but when you have something good that works for you in your faith life, you want to share it, right? I'm retired, so I recognize that it easier for me to take this time, but we can all find a way for prayer and time alone with Jesus daily if we really desire it.

Our mission on our Fourth Day is to live Jesus' call to love others, live the commandments, make friends and bring friends to Christ. That requires that we seek Him daily in prayer and escape the dictators of noise in our lives that prevent us from hearing His voice and His call. We know that Jesus Himself frequently sought His heavenly Father's companionship to find peace, strength and direction in His life. How can we be any different? St. John's first letter tells us "But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him. This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live just as he lived."

We all have to find time to spend with Jesus daily, according to what will work in our lives. It might be rising a little earlier in the morning or cutting out some of that useless TV/internet time, but "the number one rule for daily prayer is do it." (Thomas Merton). As we begin a new year, certain to be filled with new opportunities and challenges, one thing that will not be new is our need for Christ and daily companionship with Him. Now is the time to start a new invigorated prayer routine so that we're ready to live the Gospel more fully. Let's try to make each new day a pilgrimage of prayer.

DeColores,  
Dcn. Denny Scherger

## Lay Director

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

Happy New Year!

I love the start of a new year. What an opportunity to review the events of the prior year and look forward to how this new year could unfold! Granted, 2021 has been a struggle in many ways. It started so hopeful, but then was, as usual, filled with many challenges as well as times of amazing joy. I am reminded often that although I see glimpses of heaven now and then, I don't live IN heaven.

So how do I go about seeing more glimpses of heaven? For me, it's pursuing a fuller relationship with Christ, doing what I can to support that pursuit. If I feel better, my eyes and heart are more open to seeing more glimpses. That involves my body, how I treat it, how I honor it. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, after all

From 1 Cor 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? Therefore, glorify God in your body. For you have been purchased at a price." My mom told my sibs and I when we were growing up that our bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit. It didn't make much sense to me then as a chubby kid with glasses who couldn't run very fast. But I was purchased at a price! I am precious to God! The more I can understand that, and embrace that, the more glimpses of heaven I'll have right now!

Another way that I can pursue a fuller relationship with Christ is to follow what we heard in the Ideals talk on the Cursillo weekend. How do I spend my time, talent, and treasure? I've told my pastor that church is my "happy place". When I'm there, I experience a peace that I find nowhere else. Now that I'm retired, I have the opportunity to be at church more often, and I'm at my church or its sister parish almost every day. BUT I usually am sitting at the organ or keyboard, focusing my attention on trying to play the music right and not mess up the words to the verses when I'm singing. It's time for me to have TIME in God's presence without another agenda or activity. Getting to church early (perhaps not possible!!) or staying afterwards (more doable) would be a good way to take TIME to just BE with God.

I tithe, as I'm sure many of you do also. I support my church/diocese and some charities. I took a look at where my treasure was going this year and realized that there were ministries that are precious to me that I'm not currently supporting. One of those is Cursillo. This movement has made such an impact on my life. I do offer my time and talent and contribute at the closings when the hat is passed, but haven't supported this movement on an ongoing basis. That will change this month. We **will** have a "donate" button on our website page soon which will allow one-time and recurring donations to be made. I'm planning to give some each month to be easier on my budget while honoring this new commitment.

How do you plan to experience Christ more fully in 2022? Within this movement, perhaps you can work a team, sponsor a candidate, come to School of Leaders to learn more about it, donate to the movement, provide support to those who are actively leading the movement, and many other ways. Christ is not outdone in generosity. When I give of myself to further His kingdom, I draw closer to Christ, and find myself seeing His hands in so much of what occurs each day. What a blessing!!!! De Colores!!!!

May the peace of Christ always disturb your life!

John Lyons [lyons5876@gmail.com](mailto:lyons5876@gmail.com)

Kathy Otermat [kotermat04@gmail.com](mailto:kotermat04@gmail.com)

## Pre-Cursillo

Hello, friends in Christ!

We are the new Pre-Cursillo representatives for the Toledo Cursillo. Thank you to Mary Ann Holman for all the work she did for the movement during her term in this role!

With weekends scheduled for March 10-13 (men's) and April 7-10 (women's), now is the time to have candidate and sponsor applications filled out for those weekends and sent to us. If you have a candidate who was previously invited to a weekend but was unable to attend, please check to see if these new dates will work for them.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Candidate and sponsor applications can be found at our website: <https://www.cursillo419.org/the-ark-forms>

Thank you! De Colores!

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DeColores!

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

## Cursillo

Peace to you as we begin this new year!

There are Cursillos planned for this Spring at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin! The dates are as follows:

Men's Cursillo: March 7-10 Rector: Mike Cherry  
Assistant Rector: Mike Huffman

Women's Cursillo: April 7-10 Rector and Assistant are currently discerning.

The team for the Men's weekend is currently full! Thank you to all those who stepped up to give of themselves!

The team for the women's weekend is looking for team members. Contact us if you are interested in helping to spread the Word of God this Spring through the Cursillo weekend. Please call or email or send us an application. The team applications can be found at <https://www.cursillo419.org/the-ark-forms>

Love and Prayers!  
Kathy & Mike Huffman  
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## School of Leaders

Happy New Year to all my Cursillo family! I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful season of Christmas and finding time to reflect on our awesome God coming among us as a tiny baby to show us how much He loves us all!

Our next School of Leaders will be Sat. January 15 from 9 AM to noon at St Michael's in Findlay, Ohio. Doors will be open at 8:30. We meet in the school in the Marian room. That is the first room on the right after you turn right at the first hallway.

Kathy Otermat will do a Scripture reading and reflection, and Fr. Jim Brown will lead the spiritual presentation on the Flocknote from Bishop Thomas regarding the upcoming synod which starts on the diocesan level and then is world-wide. There is a copy of that included in this Ark for you. Please read it and make a copy to follow along with the presentation.

John Welch will lead the lay presentation on the last chapter (13) on Study of the Charism. We will have prayer, sharing, music, food and fellowship. Bring a snack to share and be prepared to leave with a full heart!

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as can make it. Masks are optional.

As for next month, we will be starting with a new book for lay presentations which is sure to inspire and perhaps give us a new perspective on our mission as Cursillistas. It is "Into His Likeness" by Edward Sri. For our next spiritual study, we will be reading, "From Christendom to Apostolic

Mission". Another great book to study to keep our faith journey focused! Just Google the titles. You can get either new or used at various sites. Please order your copies now if you haven't already so you have them in plenty of time.  
See you in the 15th!

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

## Fourth Day

"I will answer them before they even call me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!" Isaiah 65:24

The past few years for Toledo Cursillo has had many challenges. Yet, as we've moved forward, one step at a time and prayed and met together, God has led us and always provided what we needed. Whether personally or as a whole, we've been granted His guidance, His strength, His wisdom and grace and love and much needed laughter along the way. As long as we keep our hearts and minds open to God the Father, His Son Jesus and Holy Spirit we will not fail but continue to persevere together. Add His Mother Mary and we receive even more grace and blessings.

How is your 4th day going? Are you spending enough quiet time in prayer and reflection? Picking up your Bible or have an app on your phone to read the daily readings? Are you grouping and sharing your journey? Our challenge to you, in this new year 2022, live each day as if it's your last. Pray, praise and pass Him along to all you meet. Not just those you already know. Step out of your comfort zone, for God. Be on fire with the Holy Spirit! And let's set this world ablaze!

De Colores!

Luanne & John Welch  
Karen Reinhart  
Toledo Cursillo 4th Day

## Prayervine

Fr. John Lehner - seriously ill, Bob Drewior - sleep test, Don Fritsch, Sr. - passed away, Zack - health problems, friend having cancer surgery, Kim - Alzheimer's, family with Covid, family member with Covid, young man with cancer, Sara - pacemaker replacement, Fr. John - passed away, Tom - Colorado home in path of wildfire, young woman - multiple health problems.

*Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at*  
[prayersaregoingup@gmail.com](mailto:prayersaregoingup@gmail.com).

## Palanca Requests

1/14/2022	1/17/2022	Women's Spanish	Omaha, NE
1/20/2022	1/23/2022	Men's 104th (English)	Harrisburg, PA
1/27/2022	1/30/2022	Women's 123 (English)	Savannah, GA

This is not a typo- there are only 3 scheduled Cursillos scheduled nationwide for the month of January 2022, thus far. So, imagine all the prayers that will go toward just these 3 gatherings. That allows us more time to pray for each other-every little bit helps.

Recently, the world has lost a great humanitarian, peace-maker and leader – Desmond Tutu. He did so much for South Africa and the causes of peace, equality and his concern and warnings on the need to save the planet. It is said in an article that Tutu was “a candle of hope in a darkening world”. We could learn a lot from this man’s life and what he stood for.

I was reading a bit about him and came across some of his famous quotes. Many applied to peace, hope, and how we should be as a people. One I came across that stuck out was this—“A person is a person through other persons. None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think, or walk, or speak, or behave as human beings unless we learned it from other human beings. We need other human beings in order to be human. I am because other people are.”

We are because of each other. I am so glad to be a part of this group of people of Cursillo. Keep praying for each other and may God bless you this new year.

Peace,

Jan Stainbrook, Palanca Chair

## Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings



Post-Cursillo (4<sup>th</sup> 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!

*‘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.

**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.



# LEADING THE FLOCK

by Bishop Thomas

## *“Communion, Participation, Mission”*

These three words are at the heart of the theme which Pope Francis has invited the entire Church to reflect on as decisive for her life and mission; “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.”

In his homily on October 10<sup>th</sup> opening the worldwide Synodal Path toward the Synod on Synodality, the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to take place in Rome in 2023, the Holy Father emphasized that Catholics taking part in a synodal path should strive to “become experts in the art of encounter;” and that such a path is accomplished “not so much in organizing events or theorizing about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another.”

But before we can understand what is being asked of us, we need first to understand what the very words “synod” and “synodality” mean. Simply put, the word “synod” comes from the Greek word meaning “assembly” or “meeting.” And as presented in the International Theological Commission’s 2018 document “Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church,” “synodality” refers to members of the Church moving forward in communion with (*syn*) Christ and one another, along a path (*odos*) under the impulse of the Holy Spirit. Early examples of synodality are recorded in Scripture and Tradition, and it was Pope St. Paul VI who in 1965 first established the “Synod of Bishops for the Universal Church” to address topics critical to the Church’s mission and proclamation of the Gospel.

In fact, in dioceses and parishes there are various permanent synodal structures which can be distinguished from a worldwide or local onetime synod event, for example the parish pastoral council, the finance council and the diocesan pastoral council.

Synodality, Pope Francis has said, “is a style, it is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium.” So just how will we “walk together” in this Diocesan Preparatory Phase?

As the documents from the Holy See offering guidance on how to prepare for the upcoming Synod were only recently received in September, we are still formulating how best to proceed. In fact, prior to the release of those documents and since, I have personally met, dialogued with, and received the collaboration of a number of representative groups, including our Diocesan Pastoral Council with members representing our 15 Deaneries and beyond, as well as the Religious Superiors of all the Consecrated Religious who have members serving within our diocese. I will continue personally to meet with each of the consultative bodies/councils in the diocese to engage in dialogue and collaboration regarding this diocesan preparatory phase. In addition, I am so grateful that Pat Oedy-Murray, well known to many of us, will serve as our diocesan contact person, a role called for in the documents.

Together with these consultative bodies and others, through consensus, we were able to settle on a purpose, plan and questions for our engagement in this Synodal path. It was determined that our local efforts need to be both doable and achievable. We have established a local purpose and goal for this Diocesan Phase (Oct 2021-April 2022), based on the worldwide theme provided: “Deepening our **communion** with Christ in the Holy Spirit; Deepening our **participation** with Christ in the Holy Spirit; Deepening our **mission** with Christ in the Holy Spirit.” Together we considered the fundamental question posed in the documents that guides this consultation of the People of God: “A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, ‘journeys together.’ How is this ‘journeying together’ happening today in your particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together?’” (26, Prep Doc). Following this, we considered the “ten thematic nuclei to be explored” provided by the documents, distilling the questions in each section down to one, so as to provide focus and clarity. We have also considered an electronic component for consultation. It is these focused thematic questions which will be considered in our prayer, discernment, and dialogue throughout the diocese. The fruits of the process will then be synthesized into a brief report which will be submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The USCCB will then synthesize the insights from all the dioceses in the United States and send them to the Holy See.

Regarding the plan on how the diocesan consultation might best be carried out, there was a consensus around holding a number of diocesan wide prayer and discernment evenings, with multiple deaneries coming together, to encounter the Lord through the Liturgy of the Hours before the Blessed Sacrament, with a *Lectio Divina* and an extended time of prayerful silence to invite the movement of the Holy Spirit; and then an extended time to encounter one another with the focused thematic questions. We will keep you informed when the schedule for these meetings is determined.

In my meetings with the consultative bodies, the participants emphasized how important it was to share what a path of synodality is, and what it is not. To be sure, this path is one of engaging the faithful who, exercising the gifts and charisms of their Baptism, journey together, praying, listening, dialoguing, and discerning how best to live and proclaim Christ and His Gospel. To be sure, the path of synodality is not some sort of political process where participants vote on topics or questions. The Preparatory Document makes clear: “The consultation of the People of God does not imply the assumption within the Church of the dynamics of democracy based on principals of majority, because there is, at the basis of participation in every synodal process, a shared passion for the common mission of evangelization and not the representation of conflicting interests. In other words, this is an ecclesial process that can only take place ‘at the heart of a hierarchically structured community.’ It is in the fruitful bond between the *sensus fidei* of the People of God and the magisterial function of the Pastors that the unanimous consensus of the whole Church in the same faith is realized” (14, Prep Doc). As we embark on such a synodal path in this Diocesan Preparatory Phase, two extremes are to be avoided: on the one hand, the attitude or ideology which, even before any mutual prayer and discernment, has decided that this is a waste of time and there can be no worthwhile outcome; and on the other hand, the attitude or ideology which, even before any mutual prayer and discernment, has decided that the results must change the nature and teaching of the Church. Instead, it is my sincere hope that our journeying together will be open to the Holy Spirit, strengthening us in communion, participation, and mission!

During this Diocesan Preparatory Phase for the Synod, I invite you to pray the official Prayer of the Synod, *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus* [[usccb.org/prayers/prayer-synod-synodality](https://usccb.org/prayers/prayer-synod-synodality)] so that all our efforts, our prayer and discernment and our journeying together in our local Church may bear fruit for our Diocese and for the Church Universal!



Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
October 18, 2021

The resources for the Synod on Synodality called for by the Holy Father Pope Francis may be found here: [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va)

For diocesan resources, please visit our “Reconnect” website: [www.reconnecttoledo.org/synod](http://www.reconnecttoledo.org/synod)

