

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.

November 2020

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

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Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Weekends are postponed until Spring 2021

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

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

Dear friends,

2020 is edging toward completion; nature's cycle has once more come to maturity and plentitude. Our fields, gardens and countryside have yielded food for our bodies and beauty for our souls. Twilight comes earlier and already the first frost has reminded us that all of life here on earth is temporary. Autumn is a time for long, quiet walks through fallen leaves; it is a time for discovering the meaning in all our labors; it is a time for reverencing the rhythm of the seasons and giving thanks.

There is a certain poignancy about autumn, a mixture of sadness and gratitude, an experience of harvest and fruitfulness juxtaposed to loss and letting go. If a loved one has died this past year, we know this duel experience most keenly. At any given moment, quite outside our control, when we're feeling the loss so sharply, we may suddenly be overwhelmed with a profound gratitude for their life, their goodness, humor, generosity, idiosyncrasies, and unique loveliness. How lucky we are to have been influenced and loved by them!

Of all life's manifold forms, we humans are the only species, as far as we know, aware of our mortality. Now, it's true that many of us don't like to think about dying (or at least *not yet*, we say!) Still, I believe that we will not become truly grateful people until we have embraced the mystery of autumn, *i.e.*, at any given age a life comes to fullness and then lets go. A person who has a close brush with death discovers a new gratitude about being alive. A cataract removed makes one appreciate sight. A terminally ill cancer patient celebrates the first flower of spring or a bird's song in a way he or she never before did. A grateful heart develops, in large part, from this experience of temporariness.

It is good to ponder death, not because we're morbid, not because we see it as an escape from the difficulties of life, not even to frighten us into conversion. It is good to be reminded that life with its multitude of blessings and loves should never be taken for granted.

Brother David Steindl-rast believes that gratefulness is the heart of prayer. We come closest to God, are most at peace and overflow with a quiet joy when we are simply aware of life around us. Gratitude wells up in us like living water. Our senses become alert to our surroundings, thus enabling us to drink in beauty previously unappreciated. Because we are aware of the temporality of childhood, we take time to play with our children while they are young. Because people grow up, move away, and eventually die, we pause now, while they are still with us to notice their goodness, their thirst for life, their efforts for the common good, and we love them anew with hearts full of gratitude.

November begins with an invitation to ponder death and those who have died. November comes to an end with Thanksgiving. We have seen so much loss in 2020. In the depths of those losses may we find the seeds of gratitude that will bear fruit in greater wisdom, compassion, and empathy, and a greater love for those who share our earthly journey – for as long as we accompany one another here.

A Blessed Thanksgiving!

Sister Edna

Lay Director

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

Friends, as we look at the calendar, we might say;” where has the year gone?” It is down to two months left in 2020. I think a lot of people say YES!!! Goodbye to 2020. But what will 2021 bring? We can all guess, but no one knows for certain. And isn't that what a journey looks like? We try to plan out as best we can what we will do, where we will go, what we will see. We start out, and then things change. Our best laid plans go sideways! When this happens, we have two choices on how to deal with the change. Take a deep breath, survey the situation, and make the best choices we can. Still enjoying life. Or we can get upset; maybe go on a tirade, upsetting those around us and even ourselves.

I think that most of us have been through both situations if we are honest with ourselves. Somewhere along the way we have found that getting upset and upsetting others isn't the right way to go. Maybe we found the peace and love of Christ on the weekend we lived. We found that being on this journey we call life is a lot easier to live if we take time to live it peacefully with those around us. Not that it is easy at times, but very necessary for our own good.

You see, we **are** companions on a journey. Breaking bread and sharing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share. For we believe in the love of Our God, we believe in the love of Our God. This journey can be very rocky and rough at times. So, sharing our ups and downs with those close to us helps us to see our own close moments with God. When we share our burdens with others, the load is lightened; isn't it? We are not strangers to each other. We are strengthened by those who care! We each have been gifted by God our loving father. We each have to seek out what our reason for being on this earth is. No one else can fill our shoes.

We have been called by God, by the word of the Lord; to act with justice, love tenderly those we meet and to walk humbly with Our God. Yes, walk humbly with Our God. If we truly seek God, we will find him. We need to keep knocking at times until that door opens for us. We need to keep asking, for it will be given. For we believe in the love of Our God. Yes, we believe in the love of Our God. We are made to sing glorious praise to Our Heavenly Father, to work in service with Jesus our brother, and let the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and minds. To walk side by side with hope in our hearts. For we believe in the love of our God. Yes, we believe in the love of Our God.

This year has been a journey of ups and downs, laughter and tears, wow! and what, singing and sighing. A lot of changes!! (More than any one of us dreamed about.) BUT we are still here together on this journey. I urge you to continue to reach out to those who need a hand, or an ear to listen. Go the extra step and love that person that drives you nuts!! Love them with the love of Jesus. You can do it because He loved us first. Let us continue on this journey as companions, lifting each other up and glorifying our God in doing this. I am so blessed to be with you on this journey. I wouldn't want to be traveling alone. God bless you!

Peace, Love and Prayers!!

John Lyons

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

John Lyons
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Pre-Cursillo

What are your memories of November? For me, it has to be going to the cemetery for the All Souls service. Every year, we gathered as an extended family at St. Wendelin Cemetery, in Fostoria. After the prayer service, we went to visit the graves of Mom's parents, aunts, and uncles. It was a time to remember them and share stories. When we were done at the cemetery, we went to my great-aunt's house for supper of KFC, homemade noodles (at least they looked and tasted homemade to me), and many other goodies. It was a time to see my cousins, aunts and uncle. Growing up, I'm not sure that I really understood what the day was for, but as the years have gone by, I have come to appreciate that time to visit with those who have had an influence on my life, but are no longer with us. It has been many years since I have made those visits, and look forward to doing so once again this year.

At this time, we do not have any dates set for Cursillo weekends. Please continue to pray that we will be able to do so in the near future. If you had any candidates, especially the women who were not able to have

their weekend this fall, please continue to keep in contact with them. This is also a good time to be looking at your environments for potential candidates.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a great November, and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Decolores!

MaryAnn Hohman
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson
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Make a Friend – Be A Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ

Cursillo

The mission of the Pre-Cursillo is to work together with the Secretariat to help put Cursillo Teams together. That is not difficult. Basically, we keep in touch and call people from our Cursillo family and ask them if they would feel graced to serve on a team at this time. Sometimes it is a yes. Sometimes it is a no. Just keep a checklist to give to the next Rectors. We agreed to this mission because our brother, Tim, was begging all over the place and we felt sorry for him. We have not been around the Cursillo as long as a lot of people. Only 26 years. We served as 4th Day for 8 years before, by God's grace, term limits were established.

But anyway. Here we are. Really not with much to do during this COVID thing except stay in contact with our Cursillo family so no one feels abandoned. Maybe a strong word. Maybe not. Call people and talk to them. Piece of cake! Rambling thoughts of the Pre-Cursillo Chair. WAIT!!! There are more rambling thoughts.....

When I worked as a Director of Religious Education, I had to conduct those "boring" meetings parents had to attend while preparing the children for the sacraments. I worked there for 12 years and those parents were my friends. I felt bad putting them through it, but I DID try to make it interesting! One family had prepared 6 children while I worked there. That beautiful Mom could have done that meeting herself!

My random thoughts are bringing me to the life giving, soul quenching beauty of the Eucharist.

In those meetings I quoted a famous atheist. It has been a few years I think his name is Richard Dawkins. (Google It!). He said. "If you Catholics truly believe what you say about the Eucharist, you would be crawling on your hands and knees everyday of your lives to receive it ". Wow. I have at times been a daily communicant. I have more times not been. Just wow. I also said there is great beauty in our little people receiving for the first time. It is to be celebrated for sure. But we ALL need to understand the beauty of the next 10,000 times we receive . . . And I even said that if you do not believe in Jesus truly being present in the Eucharist you might as well leave this meeting right now. No questions asked. No one ever left. I

had probably put them to sleep by then.

In our First Communion Retreat we went on a treasure hunt that took them all over the parish campus and burned off their 7-year-old energy! (Wore ME out,). We ended up inside church before the altar and Jesus present in the monstrance. "Have you found the treasure?" There were all sorts of 7-year-old answers! One year a sweet little guy whose face I can still see and whose name I will never forget stood right up, kind of bounced up and down and excitedly said: "Mrs. Huffman! I get it! The treasure is JESUS!"

The treasure is Jesus. These last few months have been difficult when we have been unable to go to Mass. Unable to just sit with our treasure in adoration. Unable to mingle with our Cursillo family and in our life-giving Group Reunions. Hearing the ongoing negativity of the world that surrounds us. Unable to think about putting Teams together because we have no idea when we will live our next weekends. You are each in our prayers every day. We pray that every day on your treasure hunt you find your true treasure, JESUS!

Ultreya - Love and Prayers

The Huffmans

School of Leaders...



School of Leaders....First Things First

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you. Matthew 6:35

How do you begin to set the right priorities for your life against the pull of the things the world says are important? It is not easy, but it's absolutely essential if you want to make sure you don't miss the things that matter most.

With this verse, the natural tendency is to read the first part quickly in order to get to that last phrase, "and he will give you everything you need". We know, we've been there. If we're honest about it, we would probably admit that we're usually inclined to live each day primarily focusing on "everything we need". It's the stuff that slams us smack in the face when we wake up each morning and becomes more and more pressing throughout the day. The pressing needs around us-even if they are good things-can take the focus away from what matters most: our relationship with God and the people he has placed in our lives.

But read the verse again, "Seek first his kingdom". How can you do that? With all the challenges, obstacles, and urgent matters of each day, is it even possible?

Let me suggest that you keep doing what you are doing right now. Take a few moments and be quiet and spend time with God. When you do, you will be pleasantly surprised at how he will lessen your worries about tomorrow and release you from the breathless pace of the world's "urgent" priorities of today to make room for His priorities. Dedicating time to the priorities that God has entrusted to you may not seem significant right now, but to someone who needs you, it could make all the difference in his or her life. And in yours!

Determine to seek God's priorities for your life. It begins by spending time with Him. Try to do it every day, for yourself and for those who matter most to you.

Our next School of Leaders meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 9 A.M.

Scripture reading and reflection will be given by Karen Fair.

Spiritual Advisors presentation will be given by Fr Jim Brown. Chapter 2 of His Way by Fr David Knight (available on Amazon and the National Cursillo website) Lay presentation will be given by John Welch. Chapter 3 of The Study of the Charism, OMCC (available on the National Cursillo website. www.natl-cursillo.org)

We will be having School of Leaders again this month via Zoom on Saturday, November 21, 2020. If you would like to attend this zoom meeting, please contact Karen Bonen via email at karenbonen@yahoo.com by Wednesday, November 18 with your email address. Invitations will be sent out with instructions on how to connect to the Zoom account on Thursday, November 19, 2020. Hope to see you there.

While the zoom approach is not like being in person with one another, it is still a good way to be able to see one another and share our experience, strength, and hope with each other. Hope to see you there!

Prayers and God bless,
John & Karen Bonen, Rectors
God Bless

Fourth Day

With Fall's arrival a new season has opened. A season that brings change and color. See gardens browning, leaves falling, and crops harvested. Baseball ends but football begins. Go Buckeyes or go one of those "other" teams lol. Halloween and Thanksgiving bring friends and family to our doors. We get to wear our fall wardrobes and fancy coats.

Then there is the flip side. Sometimes those gray days of autumn seem to be endless and surround us. Yes, many of the same issues of 2020 are hanging around and trying to carry over into 2021. It is easy to feel depressed or be fearful. Thankfully, God has given us His Grace to overcome everything. He tells us so in the bible.

Isaiah 41:10 *"Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."*

Let's break up some of those gray days or days we feel a little gray. How about a little humor with a message? We have an idea. If you have attended one of the past two Focus days, you might have seen a video from the Skit Guys. A couple of Christian guys who like to shine a little light with a smile on their face. We have included a couple of links to their videos. The length of the video's time is listed so if you only have a few minutes you can choose one by the time you have to watch. Just click on the link and sit back and enjoy. Maybe the day will seem a little brighter. Take a break today, find a smile and know God loves you! Yes, we love you too!

Grace 3:49

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhoFEuw2GPA&t=15s>

Nothing 2:47

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfCxXiGYjRo>

5 Ways to Kill Fear 3:20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsIItDhgvBI>

Messy Blessings 4:29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCLNIT06zL4>

God's Chisel 11:33

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QCkBL2DfVg>

Special???? 1:34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMojZ8SYTZc>

Thank you for taking the time to be a Cursillista. Continue on being a witness to Christ! We hope to see and hug you all soon!

The Post Cursillo Team;

John and Karen Reinhart

John and Luanne Welch,

email: John4toledo@yahoo.com

Prayervine:

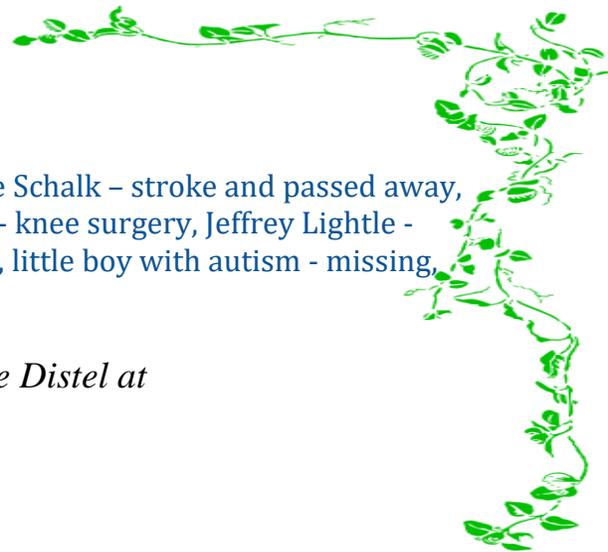
Tom - kidney stone surgery, Deacon Rick Nelson - passed away, Pete Schalk - stroke and passed away, David - needs liver transplant, Gary Lovell - possible Covid, Fr. John - knee surgery, Jeffrey Lightle - passed away, Julie & Joann - cancer, Arne & Marge - Arne has cancer, little boy with autism - missing, friend - heart surgery

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.

Ultreya

IN KEEPING WITH TOLEDO DIOCESE Reopening Policies- ALL ULTREYA'S ARE CANCELLED THIS MONTH



Palanca

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Again, there are few Cursillo going on this next month of November. Please offer palanca in support for the upcoming events.

And let us give thanks for each other and the small attempts we have in gathering together in Christ Jesus. Please pray for each other. And may God's blessings be upon your families this upcoming holiday season and always.

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
10/30/2020	11/1/2020	Women's 88 (Portuguese)	Valença, Brasil
11/5/2020	11/8/2020	Men's 209 (English)	Pittsburgh, PA
11/12/2020	11/15/2020	Women's 210 (English)	Pittsburgh, PA
11/20/2020	11/21/2020	NACG Encounter (Bilingual)	Virtual-North America/Caribbean

"I am like a brook that makes no effort to overcome obstacles in its way. All the obstacles can do is hold me up for a while, as a brook is held up; but during that time it grows broader and deeper and after a while it overflows the obstruction and flows along again. This is how I am going to work."

Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade

'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.

