

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.

August, 2021

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

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Upcoming 2021 Cursillo Weekends

Men's Sept. 16-19
Spanish Men's Sept. 30 - Oct. 3
Women's Oct. 14-17

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

Email

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

Dear Friends,

The start of team meetings for upcoming Cursillo weekends (after a long hiatus), gives us all an opportunity to renew our commitment to prayer, study, and action. Hopefully, we've never overlooked this three-legged stool that can provide such a solid platform upon which to grow and thrive. In these very unsettling times that unleash both fear and anger in us and around us, this Cursillo method can keep us on the path that Jesus points out. I'd like to share a few ways this has been true for me, with hopes that you will find your way to apply this tripod to your life.

The Black Lives Matter movement these past 18+ months has challenged me to examine my own biases and prejudices. I decided to do some study. I read books like "White Fragility" by Robin DeAngelo and "Caste: The Origins of our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson and I attended a workshop to sensitize myself to the issues faced by people of color in our country. We who are Caucasian do have an unfair advantage over others that makes us think we are a superior race – probably not consciously, but implicitly. We define what is acceptable and “normal” in terms of language, customs, food, family traditions, worship, art and music, holidays, economic and academic success, work ethic... and so on.

When we meet a different cultural value system, we may initially back off in wonder, but sometimes that degenerates into negative judgment. What is needed is STUDY. I then approach an issue with a desire to discover, with an openness to learn... and what I learn is that the issue is both more complex and more simple than I had originally judged it to be. Getting to know and appreciate people who have different backgrounds can enrich my life in marvelous ways and deepen my appreciation and compassion for all God's children. Study takes me beyond the limitation of my opinions and fears.

I am also very conscious of and personally affected by the political divisiveness that is tearing apart families, long-time friends, our communities, and our country. It is tempting to align ourselves with those who think similarly and label the others disparagingly. Here is an area for ACTION that can be practiced every day.

I can stop arguing my point of view as though it is the absolute truth and actually listen to an alternate viewpoint, with a desire to understand, thus moving the interaction from a debate to a meaningful conversation, wherein both parties (hopefully) are seeking understanding and direction. I can remind myself that social media are platforms for self-expression but not necessarily objective truth, so I'm not going to rely on such sources for factual accuracy. I'm going to give people the benefit of the doubt that, although they may have a different value system, they are not thereby uninformed, stupid, naïve, misguided or evil people. Goodness is planted in each one of us by the God who created us. If I have a strong, assertive personality, I will speak my opinions more tentatively and if I have a more retiring personality, I will add my piece of truth to the conversation with more courage – but neither with a superior attitude, for truth is many-faceted before it becomes simple.

I am also very troubled by a similar divisiveness growing in faith communities, certainly in the Catholic Church, but in most other Christian denominations as well. It is a sad commentary if we know more about what each political party stands for than what the Gospel stands for. I know too many priests and deacons who are afraid to preach the challenging words of the Gospel for fear that their parishioners will accuse them of being “too political.” They are charged at their ordination to believe, teach, and live the Gospel. Who is at fault when they are intimidated, ridiculed, or punished for doing so? Obviously, this is a great need for PRAYER. Daily prayer and meditation on the life and teaching of Jesus, with a heart open to conversion, is the only real way to learn that neither political party aligns perfectly with the Gospel. So, what will I choose to be the guiding light in my life???
Hmmm...

Prayer, Study and Action: they really all intertwine, don't they? Let's redouble our efforts at all three. Heaven knows, we need this three-legged stool in our lives... and our many environments are also crying out for the relief they can bring.

Ultreya!
Sr. Edna Michel



Lay Director

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

Well, it is August already! Time is flying by way too quickly. So, let's grab our favorite beverage and find a comfortable seat to relax in. And spend some quiet time reflecting on how much Our God loves each one of us. Have you ever considered just how much God loves YOU? We are His people, the flock that He tends. We are His children; He has called us each by name. He formed us in our mother's womb. He knows the number of hairs on our heads. God loves you so very much, right where you are at; in whatever season of life, you are, at whatever workplace you have ended up at, in whatever family. Consider that God loves you

so much, that He won't ever leave you! Never! If the distance between you and God changes, guess who moved?

God wants the very best for you. You must trust Him. "Know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you" (Jeremiah 29:11). Yes, God really loves us. He sent His only Son to die, that we might have eternal life. After all, isn't that why we were put here on earth? To love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and body? To love Him now in this world so that we can be with Him in the next? I like how someone put it to me about where I wanted to spend eternity. Simply put....smoking or non-smoking?

Some thoughts to ponder.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 5:8 "But God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

1 John 3:1 "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him."

1 Peter 5:6-7 "So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you."

May the peace of Christ always disturb your life!

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat kotermat04@gmail.com

Pre-Cursillo

This summer continues to move along. How can we be in August already? I hope you have had a good and relaxing summer so far.

As we start to prepare for a new school year, it is also time to prepare for the Fall Cursillo weekends. The men's weekend is scheduled for September 16-19, and the women's weekend is October 14-17. There are currently 7 candidate applications on file for the men, and 11 for the women. Applications for the men are due no later than Aug. 26, and the women Sept. 23. Invitations for the men's weekend will be sent out the week of Aug. 16, and for the women, the week of Sept. 13. Cost for the candidates is \$185.00.

If you have any new applications, please send them in as soon as possible so that they can be processed. Applications can either be mailed, or emailed, to the address below. Be sure that all information is filled out, and that all signatures are in place, especially that of the candidate's pastor. If information is missing, it could delay the processing of the application.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We look forward to seeing everyone at the closings.

DeColores!

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



Cursillo

DeColores! It's finally happening our Cursillo Teams are in formation – please keep them in your prayers and Palanca, Palanca, Palanca

Love and Prayers!

The Huffman's

School of Leaders (live and in person!!)

We are excited about the opportunity to start meeting "in person" again. With all the talk going around the past couple days about reinstating the mask mandate, we pray that God will continue to bless us with "in person" meetings. I know that many of us are more than ready to begin getting back to normal after all these months. A huge "THANK YOU" to Sr. Edna and the Sisters of St. Francis for allowing us to use their Zoom account to have online meetings. This at least allowed us to continue our meetings and keep the flow going. However, there is nothing like live meetings, gathering in the same room, seeing everyone in person, getting those long-needed hugs, and feeling the LOVE OF JESUS FIRST HAND.

Our next School of Leaders meeting will be Saturday August 21 at 9:00 AM in Findlay at St. Michael School, 750 Bright Road. Enter through the main office door, go to the first hallway, turn right and it is the first door on the right. There will be some small changes for our meetings, but nothing we can't handle.

John Welch will be presenting the Bible reading with reflection.

Fr. Ed "Skip" Littellmann will be presenting Chapter 9 of "His Way" for the Spiritual Advisors presentation.

John Lyons will be presenting Chapter 10 of "The Study of the Charism" for the Lay presentation.

Coffee and Tea will be provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share. Also bring along a fellow Cursillo member who has not been to School of Leaders for some time (or someone who has never been to School of Leaders). If you are a sponsor to someone who has lived a recent Cursillo weekend, invite them to attend. We would love to see a large turnout.

But especially bring your smiles, your singing voices, and your Love for Jesus.
Hope to see you there!

God Bless,
John & Karen Bonen, Rectors

Fourth Day

De Colores,

1John 1:5-7 God is Light. Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say, "We have fellowship with him," while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

Wow, there seems to be a light coming before us. It is the fellowship that comes from a weekend! We have been missing an important part of our lives lately. But that is about to change. The light is getting brighter and brighter. Why? God has been working on a special plan. He wanted to give us the faith journey of his light to share on the weekends. So, it has taken a longer journey, but it has gotten stronger with his guiding light. With his light bursting at the seams in us, we can go forth and share that light and faith that he has so graciously given us to use for bringing him closer to others.

This Fall we can begin our weekends WOO HOO!! Thank You Jesus! The weekends bring so much love for God, us, and the candidates. It is a burning light, a brilliant light that needs to be shared with others. It is an amazing time. I love that fact that the teams learn so much about guiding the Candidates on a brilliant light filled weekend with God.

Fourth Day, be ready to share your love in prayers for the weekends. Plus, we hope to see you at the serenades and closings.

Ultreya from your Fourth Day Team,

Karen and John Reinhart , phone: 419 722-4257, email: kittyrg1967@gmail.com

Luanne and John Welch phone: 419 478-3610, email: john4toledo@yahoo.com



Prayervine

Continued prayers for Pat Miller, Deacon Floyd - continued health issues, Mike - Parkinson's Disease advancing, Liz - continuing issues with broken leg & having to use a wheelchair, woman fighting cancer, Mike - Parkinson's Disease, Deacon Floyd - in hospital, Jim Wonderly - passed away, friend - back surgery, friend - mom in hospice, Jeff - liver cancer, Amy - MRI, Barb - heart issue, student - mom passed away, Deacon Floyd - going into Hospice, Joanie Erd - passed away, Mother - died from cancer, Francine Strause - A-Fib, Bryan Blevins, Anita - neck surgery, friend - difficult pregnancy, Jim - bone cancer & wife JoAnn - moving Jim to care center, Aunt JoAnn - passed away, Louise - starting chemo, nephew - Covid & needs prayer, continued prayers for Jim & Joann, Anita - blood clots, Dave Sanchez - esophageal cancer.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.

Palanca Requests

7/29/21	8/1/2021	Men's 62 English	Palm Beach, FL
7/29/2021	8/1/2021	Women's (Spanish)	Omaha, NE
7/29/2021	8/1/2021	Women's 84 (English)	Charlotte, NC
7/29/2021	8/1/2021	Men's 57 (English)	Lexington, KY
8/5/2021	8/8/2021	Men's 82 (English)	Charlotte, NC
8/12/2021	8/15/2021	Men's 60 (Spanish)	Tyler, TX
8/12/2021	8/15/2021	Men's 62 (English)	Tulsa, OK (Please remove the same date listed for Oklahoma City in error)
8/26/2021	8/29/2021	Men's 75 (English)	Charleston, SC
8/26/2021	8/29/2021	Women's 1 (Spanish)	Scranton, PA
8/26/2021	8/29/2021	Women's 62 (English)	Tulsa, OK (Please remove the same date listed for Oklahoma City in error)

Did you know that St Augustine's feast day is in August? I didn't. If you research him he is quite the theologian and is considered a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is the day in which he died, August 28.

He wrote many books including one of his famous, Confessions. Augustine was a restless youth and young adult, not knowing what to do with his skills that he had-and he wrote it for others to learn. He was an educated man but was restless in his many positions and would move around. It was later in his years and after exploring other faiths, in which he found Christianity to be what he was looking for. He got it! Praise God! And he continued to write many books giving guidance. His work continues to hold contemporary relevance today. Imagine- 5th century similar to the 21st century.

And what about his mother- St Monica. She shows me that I need to pray for my children, tirelessly, knowing that there is always hope for the salvation of their souls. But don't end with just praying for your children, pray for each other and their children as we are all God's children.

St Augustine and St Monica: Pray for us.

Blessings,

Jan Stainbrook

Secretariat Member openings

Do you love our Cursillo movement? Do you feel called to be more involved? The School of Leaders is in need of new rectors now. Ask the Holy Spirit if this is something that you could do. Spend some time in prayer and see if this might work for you. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact John & Karen Bonen (karenbonen@yahoo.com) or call/text us at 419-563-5115. We have been blessed beyond measure!

Other openings effective June, 2021



Pre-Cursillo
Post-Cursillo (4th 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 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.