



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.

May 2023

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

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Upcoming Cursillo
Weekend
Fall 2023
Men # 291
September 7-10

Women # 292
October 12-15

School of Leaders
9 am Saturday May 20th
St. Michaels, Findlay

Our Spiritual Advisor for May

Fr. Kevin Moebius
The Month of Mary

“And the angel said to her in reply, ‘The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.’” (Lk 1:35)

In the month of May, I can not think of two more important things to talk about....the Holy Spirit and of course Mary. It's no secret that together we find ourselves smack dab in the middle of this beautiful Easter season. We're journeying through these final weeks of Easter on the Liturgical calendar. Not that I want to go there quite yet, but can you recall liturgically how the month of May ends? You guessed it... Pentecost and then, not one, but two Marian Feast Days! The Monday after Pentecost, we celebrate The Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and then the following Wednesday the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary! How about that? Wow, quite a month indeed!

Ok ok, maybe the liturgical calendar doesn't bring all of us such joy, to you i'd say "April showers bring May flowers." Haha! A reminder that what seems like the most difficult of things to deal with in life, can always be turned into something beautiful. Like pouring down rain! For Mary, let us forget it was no different. We remember the first words from angel Gabriel to Mary, "Do not be afraid." (Lk 1:30) It seems like the world is fuller now more than ever of things to be afraid of. Frightened, the world might break out into war at any minute. Scared our own children will never come back to the Church. Terrified, the government is leading the nation in the wrong direction. Fearful of failure and rejection. Nervous about a soon to be drastic life change in our job or physical health. It's real. Now, what are we going to do with it?

Mary is THE example. Now is the time. The Holy Spirit is the answer. For what? A fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to be overpowered from on high. The good news is, if we're not ready yet, well we have the fifth, sixth and seventh week of Easter before Pentecost to think about it. Isn't the Liturgical Calendar great?

De Colores!
Fr. Kevin

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

I look at this month as Mary's month because it is devoted to Mary, Queen of Heaven. We celebrate Our Lady of Fatima on May 13 th , Our Lady, Help of Christians on May 24 th , and the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 31 st . Mother's Day is observed on the second Sunday, a day to celebrate all mothers, whether they are raising or have raised children, or have provided maternal love to others.

We all need maternal love! Mary was given to all of us as our mother by Jesus at the time of His crucifixion, and consequently we are all her children. I am learning to ask for her intercession and guidance. I have a friend who has a goal to become more like Mary as described in the hymn, "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman": "Blessed they with peaceful spirits, blessed they with gentle hearts". A wonderful goal! I'm working on this, too. The rosary is a beautiful way to connect with Our Lord as we reflect on His life through the mysteries and His mother who encourages us to pray this devotion. Pope John Paul II told us in

his Apostolic letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, "With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer."

May is also a time of hope. Farmers are planting fields; home gardeners are sowing seeds too. Such hope for the harvest to come! Mary also had great hope in the promise of God for the new direction for her life. It's not as if Mary knew all that was to come.

Hardly! As I was reading the Scripture for the Annunciation, it seems even more fantastic and impossible the more that the Angel Gabriel tells her. We know Mary's reply, from Luke 1:38, "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" Mary is further affirmed in her role to help her to continue in that hope.

From Luke 1:45, Elizabeth speaks to Mary, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."





We are all called to listen to Our Lord, to help to further the Kingdom of God. Sometimes we are called to “do”. Sometimes it’s the support and affirmation that we give to others who are being called to “do”.

It’s all important; it’s all necessary.

De Colores!

Kathy Otermat

Pre-Cursillo

Looking forward to receiving Candidate applications (and Sponsor's Aps:) for the Fall Men's #291 (September 7th thru 10th) and Women's #292 (October 12th thru 15th) weekends.

Have heard of several possible candidates in the works for both weekends. Hoping for applications soon. (Please remember to use the current application forms.)

Make a Friend - Be a Friend - Bring a Friend to Christ

Helen & Gary Keel

Pre-Cursillo

hkeel@buckeye-express.com

School of Leaders

At My Lowest: God
Is My Hope
At My Darkest: God
Is My Light

At My Weakest: God Is My Strength At My Saddest: God Is My Comforter

Our next School Of Leaders is Saturday May 20 th at 9am. St.Michael Parish 750 Bright Rd. Findlay Oh. We enter the office doors and turn right at the first hallway. First room on the right.

Reading scripture will be Roger Brickner followed by reflection.

Presenting chapter 3 "Real Deep" from "Living With Real Presence" will be Deacon Bruce Alge.

Lori Russell will present from "Into His Likeness" by Edward Sri pages 123-132

"Amazing Signs, Amazing Grace".

Come enjoy in the fun, learning, sharing, and of course music !

Walter will have the coffee ready. Please feel free to bring a snack to share.

We look forward to seeing your smiles, and of course sharing hugs.

Rectors:

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net



Prayervine *Prayer request for this month*

Little Flower & Christ the King - ACTS weekends,
Joanne - in Hospice, Betsy - foot infection & in hospital,
Sandra Carr - heart attack, brother in Florida - medical
distress, Joanne - passed away on April 14, Paul -

Covid & MRSA pneumonia, Marilyn Stump - cardiac bypass surgery, Paul - passed away, Betsy - foot surgery, Matt - hoping for a job, sister-in-law - cancer, friend's daughter - possible aneurysm, Friend - lost sunglasses, Sisco Rodriguez - passed away, friends in Arizona, friends with significant health issues. Narciso Rodriguez. Please pray for the repose of Narciso's soul, and comfort for all who love him. A young couple expecting their first child have experienced many medical issues with the pregnancy.

Fourth Day

The women's Holy Hour and Closing were wonderful. Many people attended and the witnesses were heartfelt and encouraging. Thank you to all those who attended and offered many prayers. I encourage all sponsors to group with your new Cursillistas and take them to Ultreya. Help them to keep the fire burning bright in their hearts and souls.



Area 7 and 10 will have Ultreya on May 21 at 7pm at St. Joseph Activity Center in Tiffin.

Lima area Ultreya will be Sunday May 21, St. Charles gathering space, 7 p.m. Bring a snack to share.

Palanca

MAY the grace of God be with you all. And MAY you all be blessed with His mercy this MAY and always.

There are 38 Cursillos, at this time, listed for the month of MAY. MAY God's love shine on them as they grow in His love. Our recent Women's Cursillo 290 received over 110 palanca offerings from around the world- that's amazing.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. DeColores.

Jan Stainbrook, Palanca

Witness : share how God is working in your life == email to == judbrick616@gmail.com

Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings

Cursillo 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.

TOLEDO CURSILLO WEBSITE: www.cursillo419.org Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.