



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.

April, 2022

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

(Each month, a Spiritual Advisor will write an article)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

It is a beautiful 70+ degree day as I write this, the first of several secure promises that spring will come once more to this part of the globe. After the extremely cold temperatures of this past winter, and the 'winters' we are still experiencing as we witness the devastation in Ukraine (who knows what will have developed by the time this letter reaches your mailbox??), suffering in so many places, losses in our own households and neighborhoods – we are all more than ready for something more spring-like, something we can anchor our hopes to.

As the Lenten season moves closer to the solemnity of Holy Week, we might all ponder the powerful human realities that are expressed in the beautiful liturgies of that week. Perhaps for too long we have focused with great empathy solely on the historical events of Jesus' last days on earth – certainly a commendable practice. However, we may overlook the fact that what Jesus went through is not altogether different from what is the lot of humanity. The events of Holy Week are a picture of our own lives. We have our Palm Sundays (moments of glory and fanfare – when we get that promotion or celebrate a great sense of accomplishment); our Holy Thursdays (moments of intimacy, tenderness, loving service), our Good Fridays (when pain and rejection are felt so keenly.) We have our Holy Saturdays when we feel empty, lost, numb, and alone, when we feel like God is dead. We have our Easters when we rise in new strength and hope to face our difficulties. We have our Ascensions when we can feel the power of God pouring into us. We have our Pentecosts, our moments of inspiration and mission. Our life reflects the life of the Master. And the cycle repeats itself again and again: dying and rising, dying and rising.



Upcoming 2022 Cursillo Weekends

Men's Sept. 8-11
Women's Oct. 6-9

Please share how Christ is working in your life.

Email

Nancy Cook at
nancy750@bex.net

This is the paschal journey – the central mystery of Christianity and, I believe, the central reality and mystery of each of our lives. Thankfully, we are not all at the same stage at the same time, so those of us who are currently experiencing the radiant hope of Easter or the fire of Pentecost can strengthen the hope of those in the Good Fridays or Holy Saturdays of life. Cursillo weekends certainly help bolster that sense of hope and inspiration that feed our souls and the souls of those we meet. As Cursillo has long reminded us, “We go to heaven in bunches.” We are meant to help one another.

Hope: a too often misunderstood word. In general use it is similar to wishful thinking: “I hope we have good weather for planting the field/garden.” “I’m buying this raffle ticket because I hope to win the big cash prize!” This kind of hope always includes an element of doubt that our “hopes” will actually materialize. Christian hope is different: the doubt is removed. Because Christ went before us in dying and rising, we can be absolutely certain that “if we have died with Christ, we shall also live and reign with Christ.” Our sufferings won’t last forever, our winters will always turn to spring, Christ’s love will always win out over evil; we don’t know how or when this will happen, but we have the assurance from Christ himself that this is true.

Christian hope is not Pollyannaism, nor ignorance of suffering. It is to anchor our trust in a God of Love, no matter how stormy the sea may be at times. Let’s go forward, hand in hand, mourning and celebrating together. A Blessed Holy Week to each of you! A blessed Easter, too!

Much love, Sr. Edna

Lay Director

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

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Echoing our last letter, Happy Lent! Only a couple weeks more before Easter and Our Risen Lord. But I ask, how’s it going? Your Lent? Your willingness to give up something or do something out of your everyday life? I would love to tell you that mine has been perfect. I’m doing exactly what I had intended. And that would be a lie. But I have not given up. I keep fighting the battles as they come. Some daily, some weekly. But in the end, that is what matters most; not giving up, not giving in. Asking God for graces and wisdom to win my battles. Jesus said all we need to do is ask, so ask, beg, plead for the strength to go on.

That was one of the big differences between Peter and Judas, NO? Judas gave up succumbing to the inner self for the strength to go on. Peter relied on the strength that comes from God to forgive him and help him continue on in his battles. I heard of an interview with Thomas Edison. In it he was asked how many times he failed in making the light bulb. His reply was that the number of failures doesn’t matter. What matters is that he persisted and eventually found the right materials to make a light bulb.



And so, we are all blessed with light bulbs so we can see in the dark of night. And as the darkness of lent closes in, and we see Jesus going back to Jerusalem for the Last Supper, let’s not try and dwell on how the people turned on Jesus after welcoming him. Let us look to the light. Look and see Jesus arise. Calling us to go forward and be the beacon to others. We can’t be beacons if we try to hide our light under the proverbial basket. Let it shine for all to see. The glory of the Lord. We pray that your Lent has enabled you to draw closer to Christ, closer to the light. Then we can truly be beacons of light shining for all to see. Let us

continue to make new friends. Be their good friends. And then bring them closer to Christ, our friend and brother.

May the peace of Christ always disturb your life! De Colores!

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat kotermat04@gmail.com

Pre-Cursillo

This first months of be the pre-Cursillo people has been a true learning experience. Thanks to Mary Ann Hohman, it was less of an issue that it could have been. We now have a good grasp on what to do when. We, however, are looking forward to set it aside until about July when we will be taking new candidate applications again.

Thank you! De Colores!

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

Cursillo

It was sure apparent the Holy Spirit was soaring for joy at the Closing of Cursillo 286! This may have been "the best weekend ever"! We are so blessed to welcome 14 more Godly women into the family! Praise and glory to God!

So now it is time to look forward to the Fall weekends. Teams are beginning to form even as we write this. If you would like to have the opportunity to experience the same joy filled life giving weekend that was witnessed to us on Sunday night, get in touch with us. Or with the Fall rectors. It is as easy as going online to the website and filling out a team application and forwarding it to us. Or emailing us t mrhottsmom@outdrs.net. Or doing something really weird like calling us on the phone. 419-476-5589. We will be waiting. We can't wait to hear from you.

Welcome

Praying you are blessed abundantly with the joyful grace of Easter.

Love and Prayers
The Huffmans
3823 Willys Parkway
Toledo Oh 43612

School of Leaders

Dear friends,

What is Love? Well, Love is exactly what our Lord God expressed when he created us. We know because of that love for us he brought his son Jesus Christ into our world to atone for our sins. Love is what Jesus showed us when he willingly died on the cross for us. We know he rose from the dead and is in Heaven with our Lord God to welcome us home into his loving arms. Our job is to express love and compassion to others so that they may see Christ in us.

Our next School Of Leaders is on Saturday April 23rd at St. Michael Catholic Parish in Findlay Oh. On Bright Rd. We use the office entrance and turn to the right at the first hallway. The room is the first one on the right. We begin at 9am.

Our Scripture reading: Walter Beckford
Spiritual Lesson "From Christendom To Apostolic Mission": Ron Plenzler
Lay Lesson "Into His Likeness": John Bonen

Please feel free to bring a snack to share. Coffee, tea, love and sharing will be there as well.

Rectors : Walter Beckford and Annie Blum



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

Fourth Day

From the Fourth Day Team



Hello Cursillistas,

Welcome to a new year for the Weekends to be alive with the Holy Spirit. We just finished the Men's weekend at our new place St. Francis Spirituality Center. A big Thank You to the Sisters for allowing us to be there. It went well, so this weekend is for the Women's weekend. Pray that their weekend is awesome!!

We are almost done with Lent. Soon we will be rejoicing in the risen Lord. A new birth for our spirituality to shine forward. Hopefully you are ready to share that love. The love that God gives so freely to us.

Love
John, Luanne Welch and Karen Reinhart

Prayervine

CJ - prayers of thanksgiving, Mike & Joan Wise - recovery period for Mike, Mike Wise - low blood pressure, for Cursillo's in March, Jen Orth - tumors, for all Cursillo's being lived in March, Troy Peebles - heart issues, family member - in hospital w/bleeding ulcer, for new Cursillistas, Tadhg - lung issues, good friend - in great pain, Ken & Sandy Moore & son Chris - Chris close to death, Doug - pulmonary fibrosis, Joann - in hospice with cancer, Pat Miller - high blood pressure, Todd - needing a liver transplant, Bob Drewior's mom - passed away, Chris Moore - passed away, and for his parents, Steve Majer's dad - heart surgery, Bob Drewior - anxiety attacks & MRI.

Palanca Requests

April is an exciting month. It has the celebration of Easter and the new birth of our world (spring) as well as our hearts. Many celebrated a new birth this past month of March with living their Cursillos. Welcome Cursillistas to our wonderful family in Christ Jesus. Blessing to all of you this Easter season. There are 26 listed Cursillos for the month of April, I will send them out weekly. Pray for all you brothers and sisters around the world as they did, and do, for you.

DeColores,
Jan Stainbrook, Palanca Chair

Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings

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.

To Stain My Fingers *by Jessica Witt, Cursillo #286*

For once in my life,
I was with Saint Patrick,
not vanishing like deer before the enemy,
nor converting Ireland,
a place I've never been

I was standing in my younger brother's
shoes as well,
hiking up stairs my Father's climbed

Christ before me,
beautiful words made my own
with the crucifix for Mass
in my very human, very weak hands,
once empty, now filled

I go following my light,
but most importantly,
following my Lord.

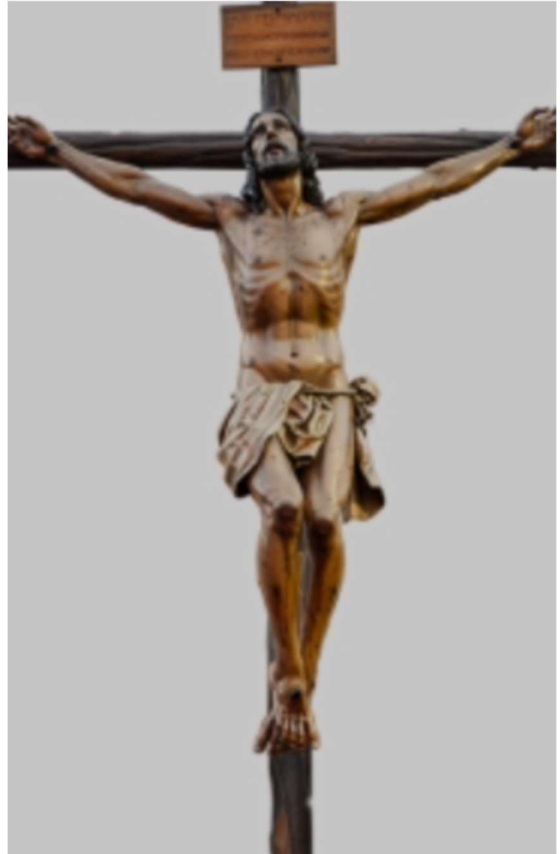
I hold the wood staff
that keeps the crucifix lifted up
for all to see

I pray,
Christ before me,
because though I hold on,
He leads me,
with even just the sometimes glimpse
of His back or His side,
but I know He's there

When we make it to the Chapel for Mass,
I cradle my Lord in an embrace,
holding Him close like a lover or a friend,
setting Him in front beside the Altar,
hoping by carrying the image of His sacrifice
that maybe His heart will bleed into my own,

I long for His love to be manifested
through me,

to always put Christ before me
whether in silent procession
or speaking to the world,



if only my fingers were stained
by my grip
until they more perfectly match His