



# 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.

## JUNE 2026

Application Forms are on the Website:

[www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org)

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## Spiritual Advisor

One of the most special things about the Cursillo Movement for me is the reality that prayer, especially praying for others is so foundational in the lives of Cursillistas. Jesus prayed for people when he walked here. He intercedes for us from the right of hand of the Father, now and forever. How can we, His people, be anything other than people who pray.

When we pray for others we hold them in our hearts. We pray for them as Jesus prays for us, that they be healed and protected.

The enemy doesn't want us to pray. If we are going to pray, he would prefer that we pray only for ourselves. Prayer for

others connects us to them, regardless of whether we know them or not. The enemy doesn't want us to experience connection – he wants us to drown in loneliness. Praying for others is all about the awareness of their beauty and needs. The enemy wants us to focus on our own exclusive, self-interested desires.

The potential exists for us to experience connection with others wherever we find ourselves.

I drove over to the Mansfield YMCA after Mass last Sunday to swim a half mile of laps. When I

## 2026 Cursillo Weekends

**Men June 4–7**

Maria Stein, OH

**Women June 18-21**

Maria Stein, OH

**Dates and venue for the  
2027, 2028 and 2029 are being  
finalized.**

entered the locker room, I encountered a young African American man getting dressed for the weight room. He was talking to a man a few lockers away. I heard him say, "I'm not as educated as a lot of people our age, but I've grown and I've learned some things. My parents raised me with good values, but they didn't kick in for a long time. I've been in a deep valley a few times, and those times changed me and made me a better person, and a better dad to my son. I made it through, with God's patience and grace.

After returning from the pool and getting out of the shower, I sat down on a bench to change. The young man who I had heard talking earlier was back from the weight room and sitting on the bench next to me. He had tasteful, beautiful tattoo swirls on his arms and his back. I leaned over and said, "I like your ink." He smiled and said thank you. Then I

said, "I wasn't eavesdropping earlier, but I couldn't help but hear you sharing about experiencing change as the result of suffering, and your testimony that God brought you through it. I want you to know that you are an inspiration to me, and I'm sure you are for others. Keep it up young man." He looked deeply into my eyes, smiled serenely and said, "you get it, you know exactly what I was talking about." I responded, "if you mean have there been times in my life when I was stuck in deep valleys of my own making, and that God pulled me out of them and gave me a new understanding, a new heart, then yes, I get it. You found yourself in the furnace. In the furnace of God's love. And I'm really happy that that you did." He smiled broadly, fist bumped me and said that I really get him and that he hoped I would have a good day.

I'm pretty sure I was smiling when I walked out of the building that afternoon because I knew I had just experienced deep connection in the men's locker room at the Mansfield YMCA. I backed my car out of my parking spot and as I was driving out of the lot, I came up to the young man who I had talked with in the locker room, putting his work out bag in his trunk. I stopped, rolled my window down and called over to him. "I forgot to ask you your name, my name is Greg." He smiled and told me his name. I called him by his name and told him I would be praying for him and for his son. Smiling he walked over, fist bumped me and said, "I absolutely know we will be talking again Greg." I responded, "I look forward to that."

Connecting with others happens because God living in us and God living in them becomes visible and unites us. Praying for people is seeing them the way God sees them and helps us to remember that is the way that Jesus prays for us.

On the surface, it might appear to some that I don't have much in common with that young man. At least forty years separate us and we are members of different races. And yet what makes us alike, even brothers, is much stronger and real than our differences. We were both created in the image and the likeness of a loving God who never gives up on us. And both of us have learned, sometimes the hard way, that God is always there for us.

So go ahead. Go ahead and pray for people. Whether you know them or not. Keep praying because prayer connects us. Because praying for others helps them. And because praying for people changes us. De Colores, Deacon Greg

**"YOUR PRAYER FOR  
SOMEONE MAY OR MAY NOT  
CHANGE THEM, BUT IT  
ALWAYS CHANGES YOU"**



## LAY DIRECTORS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While June is a very busy month for everyone, we hope you will make the time to come to holy hours and closings at Maria Stein over the June Cursillo weekends. Please get your Palanca to Cursillo team members as early as possible if you're not able to deliver it yourselves.

At our April Secretariat meeting we found out Maria Stein is booked up through 2030, so it will be several years before we will use this facility again. We're hearing the distance is discouraging some from attending the Saturday evening and Sunday evening events but we're hoping you'll look at this as more of an adventure instead of an issue. Let's make this a time for gathering and carpooling and coming together for our Lord and these candidates and teams.

### Cursillo #301

Men's Holy Hour 8:00 pm Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Men's Closing 4:30 pm Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Cursillo #302

Women's Holy Hour 8:00 pm Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Women's Closing 4:30 pm Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Watch the Prayer vine for the lists of candidates for both the men's and women's weekends.

2027 and 2028 weekends are scheduled and will all be at Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, OH. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we meet and find rector's and plan for our 2027 weekends.

De Colores,

Karen Fritsch [kittyrg1967@gmail.com](mailto:kittyrg1967@gmail.com)

Troy Peebles [tpeebles1007@gmail.com](mailto:tpeebles1007@gmail.com)

**De Colores! Here is the list of candidates for Cursillo #301, June 4th-7th.**



**MEN**

|                         |              |            |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Don Christian           | Holy Trinity | Assumption |
| Jeremiah "Jeremy" Comar | Holy Trinity | Assumption |
| Bryan Hanlon            | St. Joseph   | Erie, MI   |
| Dustin Humphrey         | All Saints   | New Riegel |
| Stephen Ladue           | Holy Trinity | Assumption |
| Scott Swint             | Sacred Heart | Fremont    |
| James "Jim" Tabler      | St. Mary's   | Bluffton   |
| Richard "Rick" West     | St. Peter's  | Mansfield  |

**Candidates for Cursillo # 302 June 18 - 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Women**

|                         |                             |                |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Mykenna Donnersbach     | Transfiguration of the Lord | Upper Sandusky |
| Annette Gerding         | St. Michael                 | Kalida         |
| Elizabeth Humphrey      | All Saints                  | New Riegel     |
| Barbara "Bonnie" Miller | Most Blessed Sacrament      | Toledo         |
| Rosemary Roesner        | Most Blessed Sacrament      | Toledo         |
| Holly Schoenberger      | Transfiguration of the Lord | Upper Sandusky |
| Teresa Wright           | St. Michael's               | Gibsonburg     |

Pat Montgomery Pre-Cursillo  
[patmontgomery411@gmail.com](mailto:patmontgomery411@gmail.com)  
 155 E. Keegan St.  
 Deerfield, MI 49238



**De Colores!!!**



Greetings on a nice sunny day. I have enjoyed being on Secretariat along with Dave Zaborski. Please make sure you get your Team Applications in if you wish to be on Team to Dave Zaborski ([dzaborski411@gmail.com](mailto:dzaborski411@gmail.com)) or Bob Drewior ([robertdrewior774@gmail.com](mailto:robertdrewior774@gmail.com))

God is good  
Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

### 4<sup>th</sup> Day / Fourth Day

**IT WOULD BE A TREAT...  
...TO SEE YOU AT THE HOLY HOUR AND CLOSING!**

UPCOMING TIMES FOR THE MEN'S WEEKEND ARE:  
HOLY HOUR, SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 8PM  
CLOSING, SUNDAY JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:30PM

UPCOMING TIMES FOR THE WOMEN'S WEEKEND ARE:  
HOLY HOUR, SATURDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 8PM  
CLOSING, SUNDAY JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 4:30PM

ALL LISTED EVENTS ARE BEING HELD AT :  
SPIRITUAL CENTER OF MARIA STEIN  
2365 ST. JOHNS ROAD  
MARIA STEIN, OH 45860



School of Leaders is on hiatus until August. Enjoy the summer!

DeColores,  
Shirley Fitz and Diane Gutschalk



Nancy Kimmet - knee surgery, Jane Distel - foot injury, coworker - death in the family, young couple - considering divorce, Ellen - pancreatic cancer surgery, Ramirez family - needs prayers, Bob Drewior - finger surgery,

# Utreya

**Area 2** Utreyas are on the 2 nd Sunday of each month, 2-3 pm. Jaeger Hall St. Clements Church

**Area 7 & 10** Tiffin and Seneca Area will be Sunday, June 28th at 7 PM in the Upper room of St. Joseph Activity center.

**Area 8** Utreya will be June 8 at St Joe’s in Galion from 7:00-9:00. We will meet in the convent. Park in the Activity Center parking lot. All are welcome!

# PALANCA

This June, we are blessed to support two Toledo Diocese Cursillo weekends at Maria Stein Retreat Center in Ohio. The Men’s Weekend will be held June 4–7, followed by the Women’s Weekend June 18–21.

We ask our Cursillo community to keep the candidates and teams in prayer and offer Palanca through prayers, sacrifices, acts of kindness, and encouragement. Every act of Palanca helps support these weekends and reminds those attending that they are surrounded by God’s love.

Please pray for all candidates, team members, spiritual advisors, and families as they prepare for these grace-filled weekends De Colores!

Bob & Alicia Swartzmiller

|          |          |                       |                      |  |
|----------|----------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 6/4/2026 | 6/7/2026 | Women's 84 (English)  | Hamilton, ON, Canada | <a href="mailto:palancacoordinator@hamiltoncursillo.com">palancacoordinator@hamiltoncursillo.com</a> |
| 6/4/2026 | 6/7/2026 | Women's 147 (English) | Cape Breton, Canada  | <a href="mailto:cbcursillo@gmail.com">cbcursillo@gmail.com</a>                                       |
| 6/4/2026 | 6/7/2026 | Women's 253 (Spanish) | San Diego, CA        | <a href="mailto:cursillos239@gmail.com">cursillos239@gmail.com</a>                                   |

|           |           |                            |                                      |  |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 6/4/2026  | 6/7/2026  | Men's 32 (English)         | Bahamas                              | <a href="mailto:inks1112@yahoo.com">inks1112@yahoo.com</a>                                       |
| 6/4/2026  | 6/7/2026  | Women's 299 (Spanish)      | San Juan, Argentina                  | <a href="mailto:ciolquin@gmail.com">ciolquin@gmail.com</a>                                       |
| 6/5/2026  | 6/8/2026  | Women's 17 (Spanish)       | San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia      | <a href="mailto:Senenmena@yahoo.es">Senenmena@yahoo.es</a>                                       |
| 6/11/2026 | 6/14/2026 | Men's Cursillo (Spanish)   | Santa Rosa, CA                       | <a href="mailto:palancadecursillos@yahoo.com">palancadecursillos@yahoo.com</a>                   |
| 6/11/2026 | 6/14/2026 | Men's Cursillo (English)   | Richmond, VA                         | <a href="mailto:bblaws1@verizon.net">bblaws1@verizon.net</a>                                     |
| 6/11/2026 | 6/14/2026 | Women's 126 (English)      | Budatétény, Hungary                  | <a href="mailto:kondasjudit79@gmail.com">kondasjudit79@gmail.com</a>                             |
| 6/11/2026 | 6/14/2026 | Women's 90 (Spanish)       | Denver, CO                           | <a href="mailto:cursilloscristiandadddenver@gmail.com">cursilloscristiandadddenver@gmail.com</a> |
| 6/11/2026 | 6/14/2026 | Women's 411 (English)      | San Angelo, TX                       | <a href="mailto:noreenr11@gmail.com">noreenr11@gmail.com</a>                                     |
| 6/11/2026 | 6/14/2026 | Women's 157 (Spanish)      | Tulancingo, Mexico                   | <a href="mailto:teteglezzr@gmail.com">teteglezzr@gmail.com</a>                                   |
| 6/11/2026 | 6/14/2026 | Men's 93 (English)         | Worcester, MA                        | <a href="mailto:worcursillo@gmail.com">worcursillo@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| 6/18/2026 | 6/21/2026 | Men's 173 (Spanish)        | Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz, Argentina  | <a href="mailto:mcc.santafe@gmail.com">mcc.santafe@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| 6/25/2026 | 6/28/2026 | Women's Cursillo (Spanish) | Santa Rosa, CA                       | <a href="mailto:palancadecursillos@yahoo.com">palancadecursillos@yahoo.com</a>                   |
| 6/25/2026 | 6/28/2026 | Women's 412 (Spanish)      | San Angelo, TX                       | <a href="mailto:favi4215osva@gmail.com">favi4215osva@gmail.com</a>                               |
| 6/25/2026 | 6/28/2026 | Women's 261 (English)      | Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka | <a href="mailto:dpravi.anthony@gmail.com">dpravi.anthony@gmail.com</a>                           |
| 6/25/2026 | 6/28/2026 | Women's 303 (English)      | Biloxi, MS                           | <a href="mailto:palancamscursillo@gmail.com">palancamscursillo@gmail.com</a>                     |
| 6/25/2026 | 6/28/2026 | Men's 145 (Spanish)        | Tulancingo, Hidalgo, Mexico          | <a href="mailto:miquelangelartegaresendiz2@gmail.com">miquelangelartegaresendiz2@gmail.com</a>   |



**Witness:** *Let us know how God is working in your life email to – [judbrick616@gmail.com](mailto:judbrick616@gmail.com)*

*For your information and reflection -- there are several positions on Secretariat that will be opening*

**Current openings on Secretariat**

**Cursillo and Communications**

*The current position holders will be with you one year to familiarize you with the service position you assume/step into.*



**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.

**TOLEDO 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.

