

# 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.

## Spiritual Advisor

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

Advent Greetings Cursillistas,

Here we are in the midst of Advent - can you believe it!? As the age-old question goes, "Where did the year go?" So as we near the end of the calendar year and look forward to the coming of our Savior at Christmas, perhaps it's time to take a little time to reflect on where we are in our relationship with Jesus. I'm sure that for most of us, this is by far the busiest time of the year. Shopping, parties, family gatherings, all of these things and more compete for our time with the Lord and so we are challenged to find quiet time to nurture our relationship. We are at the beginning of a new liturgical year. A time of anticipation and joyful hope in the coming of our Lord. It is a time for us to make our paths straight and to prepare the way of the Lord.



Jesus came, as he said, to seek and to save the lost. As it happened so many times in the past, God's people were straying far from his commands. And so, as St. Paul says: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God." Is our God AWESOME or what!? I mean, who does that?

First of all, who would continually call his people and beg them to come back when they turn their back on him? And then to top it off, who would send his Son knowing that those same people who turn their backs on him would eventually kill his Son? Again I ask, is our God AWESOME or what!? That is how much he loves each and everyone of us.



Everyday, in our good and bad times, in our weaknesses and failures, in our successes and even in our sins. No matter what, he loves us and wants nothing but the good for us. He has elevated each and everyone of us to be his children worthy of his unconditional love despite the numerous times we have turned our backs on him. All he asks of us is for us to strive to love him like he loves us and if we fail, well that's ok. We pick up the pieces, go to confession, and continue working on our salvation so that we can live with him forever. Life is not easy at times, and sometimes we just simply do dumb things, but our God is a forgiving God with endless mercy and he will always love us.

## December, 2022

Application Forms are on the Website: [www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org)

Spiritual Advisor	Page 1
Lay Director	Page 2
Pre-Cursillo	Page 2
Cursillo	Page 3
School of Leaders	Page 3
Prayervine	Page 4
Fourth Day	Page 4
Ultreyas	Page 4
Palanca	Page 5
Witness	Page 6
Secretariat Openings	Page 6

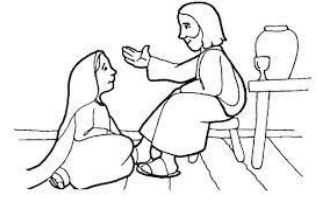
## Upcoming 2023 Cursillo Weekends

Men's March 9-12  
Women's April 20-23

**Please share how Christ is working in your life. Email Nancy Cook at [nancy750@bex.net](mailto:nancy750@bex.net)**

So as we continue our journey through this Advent season, let us take time, even if only for a few minutes, to sit quietly at the feet of the Lord, gaze into his eyes, and let him tell us how much he loves us.

Ultreya,  
Deacon Bruce



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



This is my favorite season of the year! Why? Sure, there are parties to go to. Family and friends to visit. Presents to buy, wrap, and give. Cookies and candy to make, eat, and share. Lots of decorations to put up, a Christmas tree, maybe some outside lights. The list goes on and on and on.

But the real reason is “the reason for the season”! The celebration of Jesus’ birth. Have you ever taken time to sit back and contemplate this?

With all the running around we do this time of year, maybe we all (including myself) should take extra time to just sit, contemplate, read a good book, and pray. I could give you a lot of thoughts and suggestions on what to do and how to do it. But I bet you can come up with some really good ones yourself.

This is what I’ll be doing. And I invite each one of you to do the same. If you do, I know you will be blessed beyond all measure!

Wishing and praying you all have a prayerful Advent, a Blessed Christmas and wonderful gatherings with family and friends!



**Merry Christmas** And **Happy New Year**

Peace, prayers, and blessings to all of you!  
De Colores!

John Lyons [lyons5876@gmail.com](mailto:lyons5876@gmail.com)  
Kathy Otermat [kotermat04@gmail.com](mailto:kotermat04@gmail.com)

## Pre-Cursillo



Spring 2023 Cursillos will be here before too long! Candidate and sponsor apps can be found on our website: [www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org). Now is the time to... make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ!

Gary & Helen Keel  
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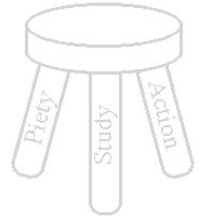
***Make a Friend – Be A Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ***

## Cursillo

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Happy Advent! Happy New Year!



We (I) could surely take some time to make a few prayerful resolutions as we begin our new year and joyfully await the coming of Our Lord, Jesus. We all surely know "what" we need to do to prepare. We just need to open our minds and hearts for the will to do it. I have no problem deciding how to improve my prayer life. Extra well-intentioned things I might do for the Lord and His people. Reality is that often my follow through is terrible. Maybe that is why "grouping" is so important. Our friends listen to our intentions and hopefully hold us accountable. A sure catalyst for goodness.



Now here is an opportunity for good! Teams are forming for the Spring weekends! Send us your team apps asap. The men will begin their meetings January 5 and the women soon after. Email. Snail mail. Phone call. Whatever is easiest. In the meantime, we send love and prayers for a holy Advent.

The forms can be found on our website: [www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org).

The dates are: Men's March 9-12, 2023; Women's April 20-23, 2023.

Love and Prayers, The Huffmans  
3823 Willys Parkway  
Toledo Oh 43612  
[mrhottsmom@outdrs.net](mailto:mrhottsmom@outdrs.net)

## School of Leaders

Let Thankfulness Rule in your heart. As you thank Me for blessings in your life, a marvelous thing happens. It is as if scales fall off your eyes, enabling you to see more and more of My glorious riches. With your eyes thus opened, you can help yourself to whatever you need from My treasure house. Each time you receive one of My golden gifts, let your thankfulness sing out praises to My Name. "Hallelujahs" are the language of heaven, and they can become the language of your heart.

A life of praise and thankfulness becomes a life filled with miracles. Instead of trying to be in control, you focus on Me and what I am doing. This is the power of praise: centering your entire being in Me. This is how I created you to live, for I made you in My own image. Enjoy abundant life by overflowing with praise and thankfulness.

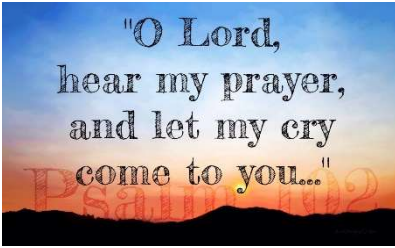


Colossians 3:15; Acts 9:18; Revelation 19: 3-6; Psalm 100:4 From "Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Our hope is for you to have a Thankful and joyous Christmas Season. Praise be to God! See you at School Of Leaders on January 21st at St. Michael in Findlay!

Blessings and Hugs, Rectors: Walter Beckford [wbeckford@bex.net](mailto:wbeckford@bex.net), Annie Blum [annieblum516@gmail.com](mailto:annieblum516@gmail.com)

## Prayervine



Co-worker's son - diabetic, emotional issues & now being tested for MS, Marilee - living with son & his mental illness, a family - 19 year son/brother died, Matt Fisher - home from hospital, continued prayers, Patrick Steyer & family - continued prayers, Rachel - missionary working in Mexico, Wayne & Joyce Davis - Covid, Trevor - dad & 2 brothers suicides, Dave & Paul - health issues.

## Fourth Day

To all of our Cursillista brothers and sisters, God's peace and happy Thanksgiving and I hope you all have a great Advent.

The recent Focus day went very well, we had over 30 people present and what a great time we had talking about Advent.

If anyone would like to give a witness at either a Holy hour or closing please let me know.

I thank God and I pray for you and this Cursillo movement, what a blessing all of you have been in my life. God bless and DeColores. Bill Obringer.

Your 4<sup>th</sup> Day Team  
Betty and Bill Obringer  
Luanne and John Welch



## Ultreyas

Toledo area Ultreya is scheduled to be at St. Clement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. For December, it will be Sunday December 11th in Jaeger Hall at 2 pm.

There will not be a December Ultreya for Area 8. The next gathering will be for a meal and Ultreya on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Activity Center in Galion starting at 6pm.

There will not be a December Ultreya for the Lima area.

Area 10 (Tiffin area) is not holding an Ultreya in December. The next Ultreya will be held on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Joseph Church in Tiffin at 7 pm. It will be held in the Upper Room.





## Palanca



I have many favorite Christmas songs but my most favorite is “Mary Did You Know”. If you have never heard it, or not have heard it recently, I encourage you to do so. Pentatonix, an a cappella group, has one of the best renditions of this song. As a mother, to even think of holding the child of God, more or less, kiss the face of God blows me away. How would I be worthy of such a task- to be chosen and pure enough to be able to do such an act. But that’s where God’s grace comes in. He created Mary pure and holy, from her conception, to carry his Son and raise Him. But yet, God gave Mary free-will choose to

do this. It was all a part of His plan. Can you imagine being in her shoes- being the Mother of God himself, the great “I Am”?

May the Grace of God be with you this holy season and may you feel His grace, love and peace so that you feel worthy to “kiss the face of God” (which is what we do when we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ). Merry Christmas!

Jan Stainbrook, Palanca Chair

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
12/1/2022	12/1/2022	VIII World Encounter	Mar del Plata, Argentina
12/1/2022	12/4/2022	Men's 118 (English)	Springfield, MO
12/1/2022	12/4/2022	Women's 152 (Spanish)	San Jose, CA
12/1/2022	12/4/2022	Men's 186 (English)	Saint Louis, MO
12/1/2022	12/4/2022	Women's 42 (English)	Nyiregyhaza, Hungary
12/1/2022	12/4/2022	Women's 375 (Spanish)	New York, NY
12/8/2022	12/11/2022	Women's 120 (Spanish)	Fresno, CA
12/8/2022	12/11/2022	Womens 291 (English)	Biloxi, MS
12/8/2022	12/11/2022	Women's Cursillo (English)	Sacramento, Ca
12/8/2022	12/11/2022	Women's 219 (Spanish)	Fresno, CA



## Witness

Every day I go to the driveway, I see 5 or 6 tiny marigolds that popped up this Fall after I had harvested the seed from the flowers, and some must have landed in stone driveway; not only did they grow in the stone, but now are blooming. Ever hear BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED? At my Cursillo closing when asked to say a few words I promised to bloom where I was planted; those little flowers remind me of those words every day. They urge me also to share a story from several months ago.



Looking for the fastest line at grocery store, I unloaded my stuff on the belt and then the young woman ahead of me began to speak the words 'I hope I have enough' over and over; I thought I had chosen the wrong line again. After putting some items back, she gave cashier her payment, and was told she was short. I finally asked how much she needed and she replied a dollar; I checked my billfold and gave her a dollar, but cashier said she needed 63 cents more; once again I opened my change zipper and dumped out what I had. It was 63 cents exactly! I guess I was in the right Line after all...



God bless!

Elaine Garcia, Cursillo #92

## Secretariat Member openings

### Current Openings

Cursillo

Post-Cursillo (4<sup>th</sup> day) - additional persons for team

Palanca



Please reflect on these openings and hear the Holy Spirit to and Voice of Jesus, you can continue to grow in your faith!

be the Hands, Feet

*'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.

**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.