



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.

September 2023

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

Spiritual Advisor	Page 1
Lay Director	Page 2
Pre-Cursillo	Page 3
Cursillo	Page 4
School of Leaders	Page 5
Prayervine	Page 5
Fourth Day	Page 5
Ultreyas	Page 6
Palanca	Page 6
Witness	Page 8
Secretariate Openings	Page 8
Sponsor Application	Page 9
Candidate Application	Page 12

Spiritual Advisor

Perhaps because I've been a teacher, September makes me think of beginnings: the start of a new school year, those first steps toward the independence of college life, the time of year when parish programs resume after a more relaxed summer schedule, and for us Cursillistas, team preparation for the fall weekends. It's the time of year when school buses roll once again, backpacks are shouldered and with both excitement and trepidation students focus their attention on learning. September is a great time of year to focus on one of the legs of our familiar stool: study.

Even before Cursillo was born in the 1940s in Spain, the Christian Family Movement was strongly advocating the three-fold responsibility of Christians: prayer, study and action. In two rollos on our weekend we heard study mentioned, first in terms of growing in our faith and secondly,

in the study of our environments so that we can be effective evangelizers. So what's the big deal about study? Dare we give it a proverbial nod and then go about our daily lives basically ignoring this part of the Christian call? Isn't study *really* for those with sharp intellects (but maybe not much common sense?) or okay for those who like it (as a hobby), but not for those who don't like it or can find much better ways to spend their time?

Our brain is the most complex organ in our body, with an estimated 100 billion neurons interconnected through more than 100 trillion synapses capable of processing and storing everything we've ever heard, seen, tasted, smelled, touched, thought and experienced. It's true we can't access all that anymore, but scientists tell us it's all there! What are we supposed to do

with all this potential? God has given us humans the capability, not to lord it over every other creature, but to understand, appreciate, and be in awe at all the ways God is revealed. Study is so important because it is God's invitation to expand our horizons and absorb the magnificence of the natural world around us. Study also helps us understand ourselves, the strengths and limitations we have, and as we

**Upcoming Fall 2023
Weekends**

Men / 291 Sept. 7-10

Women / 292 Oct. 12-15

claim our own humanity, we begin to understand the humanness of others... and that can lead to compassion, gentleness, forgiveness and wisdom. And study of our faith can lead to fresh insights into the Mystery God is and aid us in falling more and more in love with God Who is LOVE.

Our brain helps us receive, process, store and retrieve information. As many of us get older and can't remember as well as we formerly did, we can be tempted to quit learning. "What's the use?" we ask, "my brain just doesn't work as well as it used to... and besides, I'm tired of thinking so much." If we're honest, none of us remembers as well as we used to; maybe that's not the point of study. At the end of our earthly life God probably won't ask us how much we remember, but just may ask how much of this world did we *receive*. God wants to pour into our lives the joy of discovery just as much now as when we were children and then to savor what we've just discovered. Why? Because *everything* can reveal God and every big or little thing or event can show another "face" of God. Study's purpose is ultimately to delight in God.

I recently talked with a woman who told me that her prayer life was in a stupor. She hadn't done any "serious" reading for a long time. I suggested a book on our universe, *Radical Amazement* by Judy Cannato; she read it and her prayer life resurged with wonder and awe over God's works.

Study is offered in many ways, so if you're not a reader, try watching an occasional show on the history channel, or visit a museum, or tour a factory, or watch an artist at work or take part in a webinar or seminar, or travel somewhere you've never been and try the local cuisine and talk to the local people. Fr. Mike Schmitz offers a podcast, "The Bible in a Year" and another "The Catholic Catechism in a Year" that have proven so helpful to the many people who have taken time to tune in. Opportunities abound; find the ones that attract you, for it just may be God calling you to choose renewed life... and study is the way to gain it!

De Colores to all you STUDENTS!

Sr. Edna



LAY DIRECTOR

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

Hello, dear friends in Christ!

September is a beautiful and busy time. The summer flowers are bursting, full of color and at their peak. Vegetables already picked have been enjoyed, and the ones that are picked last are ready to be gathered in. The crops in the fields are at their finest, just starting to show the signs that the plants are getting ready for the harvest before too long. A hint of

coolness in the evenings is a welcome break from the warmth of the summer. School is beginning, with all the activity that occurs there and throughout our communities.

Jesus is calling us too for His harvest. From Mt 9:37-38: "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.'" We have men's and women's Cursillos coming up soon. The men's weekend is Sept. 7-10; the women's is Oct. 12-15. How can we support the harvest of souls that the Cursillo



weekends help to provide? The teams in formation are doing just that by offering themselves for the weekend. The sponsors are doing that also by their work of "making a friend, being a friend, and bringing that friend to Christ" through sponsoring candidates for the Cursillo weekend. (Applications for candidates for the women's weekend are still being accepted.) We as Fourth Day can do that through our prayer and palanca, our participation in the Holy Hours and Serenades, and by attending the Closings.

Let us all do what we can to bring about an abundance of souls filled with the Holy Spirit to advance the kingdom of God on Earth. Jesus qualifies the called. And we are all called to be His disciples. John 15:15a "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain."

DeColores!

Kathy Otermat and John Lyons



PRE-CURSILLO

We have 10 confirmed candidates for the upcoming Men's #291 Cursillo weekend (September 7th thru 10th.)

#291 CANDIDATES

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Swartzmiller | All Saints, New Riegel | Irvin Reinhart | All Saints, New Riegel |
| Zacharias Guernsey | All Saints, New Riegel | Gabe Zader | St. Peters, Mansfield |
| John McGuire | Our Lady of Lourdes, Toledo | Scott Theis | All Saints, New Riegel |
| Ron Trudgeon | St. Gerards, Lima | Jim Baker | St. Joseph, Tiffin |
| Chris Dobaczewski | Our Lady of Lourdes, Toledo | Ryan Lee | Holy Family, N. Baltimore |

TEAM # 291

- Tom Ainsworth Mike Baltzell Ernie Berry Fr. Jim Brown Frank Celestino Joe Coleman
 Tim Distel Aaron Everhart Steve Grycza Br. Dan Hall Jeff Hammer Mike Huffman
 Doug Ink Alan Lortz John Lyons Pat Montgomery Bill Obringer Troy Peebles Rick Smith
 Mike Wise Dave Zaborski

We have received 2 applications so far for the Women's #292 Cursillo weekend (October 12th thru 15th.) Looking forward to getting more soon. (Yes that's a hint for everyone reading this month's Ark. Helen says I need a lot more practice to improve my typing skills.)

Women Cursillo Team #292

*Fr. Jim Morman Sr. Edna Michel Mary Ann Hohman Barb Stager Jean Auer Annie Blum
Helen Coleman Shirley Fitz Joyce Haney Marilyn Hinegardner Kathy Huffman Angie Mehling
Erica Mendoza-Sanchez Betty Obringer Kathy Otermat Debbie Santini Maureen Sharrock
Chrissy Vasko Jessica Witt Monica Zaborski*

Also: just a reminder that we also need your Sponsor's Application sent in with the Candidate Application. These are important for the rector's in making table assignments and the table leaders.

So: Make a Friend - Be a Friend & Bring a Friend to Christ!

Gary & Helen Keel

hkeel@buckeye-express.com

419-476-9347

SPONSOR AND CANDIDATE FORMS ATTACHED BELOW

Spring 2024
Men / March 7-10
Women / April 11 - 14

Fall 2024
Men / Sept. 12 -15
Women / Oct. 17-20

Cursillo

If you wish to be on the Spring & Fall Cursillo Weekends 2024 Please get your **Team Application** to Robert Drewior to robertdrewior774@gmail.com or Mail to Robert Drewior 4698 Violet Road Apt # 93 Toledo, OH 43643

I can't believe it is September already. We have been contacting people about giving a witness for the Holy Hour and Closing for the Men's and Women's weekends. If you have been called, please respond as soon as possible. If you would like to witness at either the holy hour or closing, please contact Bill or Betty at 419-447-6410 and leave a message. We all want to hear how you are evangelizing your environments. We are all His hands and voices!

Bill & Betty Obringer

4th Day
Living in a world
after the resurrection

School of Leaders :

School Of Leaders September 16 2023

Brothers and Sisters In Christ I am praying for God's Blessings For all of you. Sending prayers for the mens weekend coming this month, as well as the women weekend coming in October.

Our next School Of Leaders is Saturday September 16 @ 9am. in St.Michael, Findlay OH. As always, we meet in the Marian Room which is entering the office doors turning right at the first hallway first room on the right.

Sharing scripture and reflection will be Shirley Fitz.

Our Spiritual director will share pgs. 51-66 of "Living With Real Presence" with reflection. John Lyons will begin Our New Book "Rescued" with us. We will be going over the forward and the intro.

We will have the coffee on for you.

You are welcome to bring snacks to share or a dish.

There will be thought provoking reflection as well as our warm friendship between us. And Spirited singing.

Rectors: Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net



Ken - pancreatic cancer, Bonnie Cochran - cancer, Clare Bohn - cancer, Irene - stroke, for the protection of children, friend - in difficult situation, family who needs prayer, brother - struggling physically & emotionally, Kevin - not responding to T-Cell cancer treatment, Nancy Smith - stroke, Todd - liver transplant, family going through a tough time, a family whose daughter just passed, Nehemiah - heart surgery, Todd's continued recovery from liver transplant, Jan Stainbrook's daughter-in-law - medical tests, "T" - malignant inoperable brain tumor, daughter-in-law - pregnancy complications, Kathy & Decant family - Kathy's husband passed. A lady with heart problems, a lady with cancer, a man and woman with kidney problems, a man with appendicitis and infection.



Area 8 Ultreya Monday, September 11 @ the Galion St Joseph activity center from 7-9 PM. All are welcome!

Area 7 and 10 Sept. 24th at 7pm in Tiffin St. Joseph's Upper Room.



PALANCA

Please pray, fast, say rosaries, do "palanca" etc. for the Cursillistas and teams as they ready for their events.

Summer is coming to an end- like it does each year. And fall comes along and steals the show with its crisp mornings and beautiful colors. Cursillo is kinda like that to me. Candidates come into the weekend worn out, burnt, and exhausted-like the aftermath of summer into a fresh, colorful yearning for the peace that only Christ Jesus can bring through Cursillo.

There are 47 upcoming Cursillos this month. The number of weekends begins to climb come fall and throughout the winter months. Hmm! Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ this month on their fresh start to a new beginning.

De Colores, Jan Stainbrook, Palanca Chair



De Colores! Everyone,

I share this idea with all of you following its acceptance by the Secretariat Board. We used to do workshops, like Cursillos de Cursillos a sort of follow up to a regular cursillo weekend; and evangelization workshop and others. They were weekend long and sponsored by the Regional Service Team. Our Focus Days came out of that experience.

I am proposing that we do a similar thing as a follow-up to the four weekends each year. It would be held in November as a Focus Day.



FORMAT for the day:

Intended audience:

- For the teams and candidates from the four weekends of the year. But **open to everyone**.
- When in November of the year.
- One day. Saturday – St Wendelin Hall or maybe Elizabeth Schaefer Auditorium in Tiffin.
- Schedule for the day:
 - Greeting and registration at 8:30 am
 - Opening prayer and **introductions** for the day at 9:00 am
 - Praise and worship song - Troubadors
 - 1st talk – Review of your weekend...kind of a progression talk, emphasis on **Piety**/holiness; **study**/formation; and **action**/evangelization. Also on **Grouping** and **Ultreya**.(Sunday's rollos
 - Ultreya with Grouping (witness from a veteran Cursillista maybe a former Lay Director)
 - Break – light lunch (soup 'n salad)
 - 2nd talk – Developing area Ultreyas and prayer groups
 - Being a sponsor – what does that entail –the ideal sponsor
 - Break and Songs
 - 3rd talk – Explanation of Diocesan structure and recruitment of new Members. Perhaps something on charisms.
- Break

Mass and Apostolic Holy Hour (with the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)

Closing.

We would need a small team of MC, musicians, Kitchen help, logistics, speakers and witnesses. Advertisement and invitations/registration. Priests, deacons, sisters etc.

Inviting especially the teams and the new Cursillistas from the four weekends of this year.

Team would be four or five people. I am willing to be the Spiritual Director for this retreat.

Respectfully submitted by

Fr Jim Brown

Witness:

Please share how Christ is working in your life. Email to: judbrick616@gmail.com

Secretariat Member openings**Current Openings :****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.

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

Candidate and Sponsor Forms --- scroll down to print

SPONSOR'S APPLICATION

PLEASE NOTE that Sponsorship of a Candidate is one of the most important contributions a Cursillista can make to the movement. It is something that should only be entered into after much prayerful consideration of all of the "love" that is involved. Including of course making a friend first and continuing to be this friend in grouping and in everyday life after the Cursillo weekend. Introducing a Candidate to Christ through the weekend is wonderful; BUT NOT GIVING THEM A MEANS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH JESUS AFTERWARDS is not good at all. Imagine how we would feel not to know how to reach him?!

We ask you to please fill out this form as completely as you can and return it to your area core representative, if you can, along with the Candidate Application. If you are not able to do this for some reason, make sure it is returned to the Diocesan Pre-Cursillo person and they will help you. Your thoughtful and most prayerful answers to this application will surely aid the Pre-Cursillo representative and the Rectors for the weekend in their ministries. Thank you always and in all ways!



SPONSOR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY/ST./ZIP _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PARISH: _____

When and where did you make Cursillo? _____ # _____

CANDIDATE'S NAME: _____

It has been found over the years of the Movement, and through this time and experience, that knowing the candidate for at least a year gives one a more intimate knowledge of who he/she is and makes it easier in the ongoing relationship after the weekend. So the next questions are helpful for you and for us.

How long have you known your candidate? _____

What is your "relationship" with your candidate? _____ PAGE 2
(SPONSOR'S APP.)

We are all aware of how active and intense the weekend is! We are very concerned about sharing and receiving the best of who and what we are in a healthy manner. That is the importance of the next question:

DOES THE CANDIDATE HAVE EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL OR ALCHOLIC/DRUG PROBLEMS THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF? IF SO PLEASE EXPLAIN:

One of the most important considerations in Candidate selection is whether or not the Candidate will be able to continue the Cursillo Method after the weekend. After all, our main priority **IS** our fourth day! Therefore we need to be sure that his/her sponsor will be able to establish them into a strong and helpful group reunion. It has been found, by many, that even allowing the candidate to “group” before the weekend is helpful to you and your candidate, if you and your group and candidate are all open to this. But regardless, after the weekend it is imperative that you as a sponsor enter into an active group reunion with your candidate for at least six months!

ARE YOU ACTIVE IN A GROUP REUNION? _____
WHERE? _____ HOW OFTEN? _____

What, if any, arrangements have you made to provide Group Reunion and Ultreya to your Candidate? Please be specific: _____

Can we help you in any way in this area? _____

There are circumstances that always need to be considered before you ask someone to Cursillo. Life brings on many challenges that we need to deal with in our lives before we come to the Cursillo and gain the “tools” that enable us to live to our fullest in Christ’s image and therefore in the method that the movement teaches. If a potential Candidate has been divorced, widowed, separated etc. in the last year it is very important for you as a sponsor to know how well they have adjusted to their circumstances. The weekend is not a “CURE” for life’s problems! We must not use it for that.

Does your candidate share any of these life challenges in the past year? _____

A candidate should be at least 25 years of age, for what will come to be “fairly obvious” reasons to them later, but for what should be obvious to a sponsor already. Although there are surely some exceptions. If your candidate is under 25, please explain why you feel that her/his age will not be an “issue” to their attending the Cursillo weekend?

PAGE 3 (SPONSOR'S APP.)

Christ in the Eucharist is central to the essence and strength of the weekend! Only those capable of receiving Holy Communion should attend. But we recognize that NonCatholic spouses and friends may want to share in the "Cursillo Experience". Please let them know that there are other recommendations such as The Emmaus Walk and the Episcopal Cursillo Movement etc. or similar apostolic experiences available to them!

Why, in your opinion, should this Candidate make a Cursillo weekend? _____
 _____ How would you rate
 your Candidate's leadership ability or potential?

It is by all of us working together for the betterment of the Cursillo Weekend, The Cursillo Movement itself and especially for the love of Christ that we make a more Christian world. It starts here by you, the sponsor, preparing your candidate, filling out all of the paperwork, mailing, e-mailing or delivering the applications to the pre-cursillo person. We all in the fourth day support one another in your endeavor to bring this person to the weekend. So let other Cursillistas know if you need help in any way or if you need questions answered!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE pay special attention to the continuation of your candidate into their 4th day. Their group reunion, their Ultreya experiences, your friendship and the friendship of the entire movement! Again, we support one another as one in Christ. We ask that you get your Sponsor and Candidate applications (COMPLETED!) into precursillo at least a month before the weekend so that the candidate, yourself and the rectors and movement have plenty of time for preparation and prayer. You and your candidate will be notified by mail or e-mail as soon as your application is processed. We will also let you know at this time the details of the weekend and what to bring. PLEASE contact your candidate as soon as you receive the notification and make arrangements with them for the weekend and confirm their place on it.

LASTLY! PRAYER, SACRAFICE AND PALANCA ARE THE STRENGTH OF THE WEEKEND FROM BEGINNING (RECTOR SELECTION) UNTIL THE END (4TH DAY INTO ETERNITY!) AND ESPECIALLY TO SUNDAY NIGHT! SO START "TALKING TO GOD" NOW! AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE TIMES FOR THE HOLY HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT AND THE CLOSING TIMES ON SUNDAY SO THAT YOU CAN BE THERE TO SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATE IN PRESENCE AND PRAYER.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU IN WHAT YOU ARE DOING FOR THE SAKE OF ONE OF HIS OWN! WE ARE ALWAYS HERE IF YOU NEED US!

Your Cursillista Family

Email form with your candidate's application to: cursillo419@gmail.com



**CURSILLO CANDIDATE
APPLICATION FORM**

The Cursillo in Christianity is a worldwide movement of the Catholic Church. It provides a method of living a Christian life where one’s spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared. The three day weekend experience is a joyous introduction into a supportive and growing community of friends in Christ – men and women who are working to bring Christ into their everyday lives. The Cursillo is designed to make it possible to live in union with Christ and to desire to bring others to Christ.

Before continuing with this application, please remember that a person may live a Cursillo only once. Have you ever lived a Cursillo? ___Yes ___No

Please print or type all information on this form.

CANDIDATE:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mails: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Parish Name and Town/City: _____

Please check one: Single ___ Married ___ Widow(er) ___ Divorced/Separated ___
 Priest ___ Religious ___ Deacon ___

If married, are you married by the Catholic Church? Yes ___ No ___

Spouse’s Name _____

Is your spouse planning to live a Cursillo Weekend? Yes ___ No ___

If No, please check on of the following:

- ___ Not interested at this time.
- ___ Not available at the time.
- ___ Active in another denomination; namely _____.
- ___ Not affiliated with any faith community.

Education: High School ___ College ___ Degree _____
 College Name: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer’s Name: _____

Hobbies/Activities: _____

Do you have any health problems, handicaps, or other needs we should be aware of (ex: special diet, medical, etc.)? Yes ___ No ___

If ‘yes’, please explain: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Candidate’s Signature

Date

Priest

Is this Candidate able to receive the sacraments? Yes ___ No ___

Priest’s Signature

Date

Sponsor:

Sponsor’s Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

Parish Name and Address: _____

Which Cursillo Weekend did you live and where: _____

How long have you known your candidate? _____

What environments do you and your candidate have in common (e.g.: family, friend, work, social, parish, etc.)? _____

Have you explained Group Reunion and Ultreya to your candidate? Yes___ No ___

Will you be able to get your candidate into a group reunion? _____

Sponsor's Signature

Date

.....
To Be Completed by Diocesan Pre-Cursillo Chairperson:

Diocesan Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

Date Received

Dates Invited: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Revised: March 2022