

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.

April 2021

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

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A little over a year ago on March 26, 2020, along with many of you I watched something I will never forget – the Et Urbi blessing offered by Pope Francis as a prayer against the Covid 19 Pandemic.

It was something I will not forget, an 83-year-old man, with one lung, visibly limping because of the pain of sciatica, walking and standing alone in a cold rain, in an empty piazza, wearing the simple house cassock that he prefers over opulent attire, praying to God on behalf of everyone and reminding all of us to care for one another. On that cold, windy, wet evening, Francis ministered to the entire world.

Since that blessing, the Holy Father has consistently reminded us that we must strive to remain connected with each other and that we must work together to come through a terrible time of world pandemic. He has called on world leaders to work together to find creative solutions to the economic and emotional toll brought about by necessary shutdowns.

Over the past year, Pope Francis has urged us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. More than any religious or political leader, Francis recognizes and warns us that the world will not “go back to normal” after Covid 19 is brought under control because the virus has exposed the selfishness of the culture in which we live.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Men's September 16-19, 2021

Women's October 14-17, 2021

**Please share how
Christ is working in
your life.**

Email

**Nancy Cook at
nancy750@bex.net**

As Lent comes to an End and Easter appears just ahead, it is a good time to thank God for bringing us so far. It is a good time to pray for the many front line health care workers, doctors and nurses, and scientists who worked around the clock to develop safe and effective vaccines that protect against the virus and that will help to bring the pandemic to an end.

And it is a good time to pray for the family members and loved ones of those who did not survive the virus, and to remember the love and care they shared with us.

As we move toward Easter, may we all remember that we belong to God and to each other. Embracing the cross of Christ will help us find the courage to embrace the hardship of the present time and to embrace the needs of others. Good Friday was not the end or the last word. The last word was Resurrection.

Happy Easter to you and your families.
And rest in peace, Tim Haney.

Yours in Christ,
Greg

Deacon Greg Kirk



HOLY WEEK

Lay Director

(Each month one of our Lay Director's will write an article)

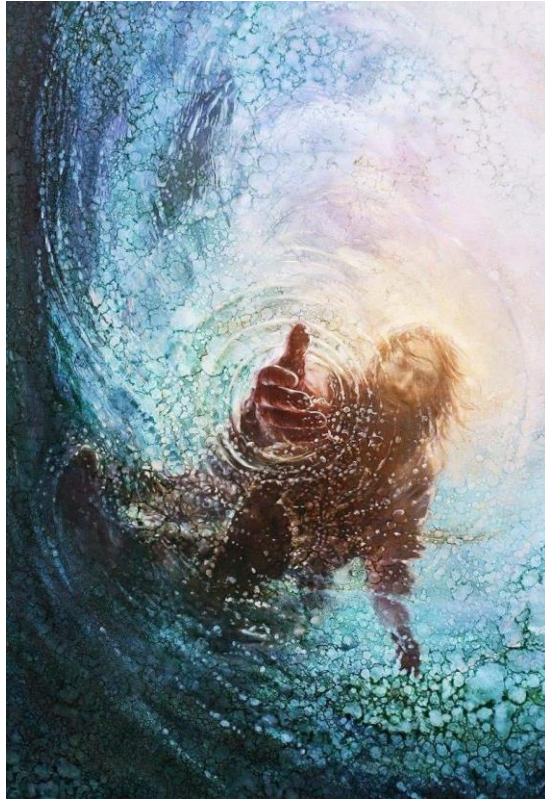
Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Blessings to all of you!

As we end Lent and start the holiest week of the church cycle, I think back to a year ago. When we couldn't go to church. We couldn't see each other, let alone we couldn't exercise our faith and go to church. And now here we are, 2021, going to church again!!! What a blessing!! GOD IS WITH US! HE IS IN CONTROL. No matter what is happening, keep this in mind.

So, I ask you, have you had 40 days of Lent OR 400 days of Lent? If you count from last year when COVID 19 hit until now---It has been 400 days! How have you weathered the storm? Because it was a BIG storm, and it is still swirling about. BUT the BIG question is.... Who is with you in the storm? Who has been by your side day and night? Who has held your hand when you were most afraid? When you're being tossed by the waves, who is guiding you to port? Do you sense Him? Can you feel His peace? Read Matthew 14:22-33

In the End (or the beginning) He died for YOU(ME)! If you were the only person on earth, He died for you(me)! Yes, I have a hard time wrapping my brain around it too. Easter is almost here!!! He will rise!! He is risen!! (almost alleluia). He Loves YOU!

As we go forward, let us all continue to pray for His guidance. That His mercy and love would flow through us and allow us to love others as He loves us.



DeColores. Christ's peace and blessings be upon you! May His love surround you!

Your sister and brother in Christ,

Kathy Otermat John Lyons

John Lyons
lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat
kotermat04@gmail.com

Pre-Cursillo

As you read this ARK, we will be in the Sacred Triduum and Easter season. This is my favorite time in the liturgical year. There is so much symbolism as we come to the end of Lent and enter the Easter season.

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, in my parish, we shroud all the statues and the crucifixes in purple. This is a tradition that I remember growing up but has not been used as much over the years. Our pastor explained it as a type of fasting from all the beauty in our churches as we prepare for Easter. Even though I helped to put up the purple cloths, when I walked into church on that Sunday morning, it still startled me, making me think of how I would spend the last two weeks of Lent.

Holy Week and all the celebrations each have a special meaning. The reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday prepares me to walk with Jesus throughout Holy Week. The Sacred Triduum, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday allow us to walk with Jesus through his passion, death, and resurrection. Holy Thursday and the remembrance of the Last Supper, then the procession with the Eucharist at the end of

Mass, the stripping of the altar, all touch me in different ways, again remembering what Jesus is about to go through. The reading of the Passion again on Good Friday, and the veneration of the cross can move me to tears. Holy Saturday brings the Easter Vigil, the decorated church, the blessing of new fire and new Holy Water, the readings from creation to Jesus' resurrection that bring it all together. Witnessing the RCIA catechumens and candidates being brought into the Church brings such joy. Finally, the joy of Easter Sunday morning makes the sacrifices of Lent all worthwhile. Finally, we can say, "Alleluia, Jesus is truly risen!"

As we enter this Easter season, let us not forget about our Cursillo candidates, both those we have already asked, and hope to make the Fall weekends (keep praying), and those we have yet to ask. Now is the time to 'make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ'. Did you see someone in church over Easter that would make a good candidate? Don't be afraid to talk with them, they just might be interested.

Have a blessed and Happy Easter!

MaryAnn Hohman
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

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



School of Leaders...

God is eternal. He existed before anything else and will last long after we pass from this earth. That's what we hope. That's what we believe. It's what Scripture has taught us, and it is what provides us comfort as we live in this world and look forward to living in the next.

Christ calls us to strive to live an exemplary life every day, long before we're in heaven. Sometimes though, our mindset dwells on the temporary, the here and now. We tend to focus on the transient. Our waking moments are occupied by the things going on in our waking moments. Sometimes we

think that our physical lives are all that define us. But just as God is eternal, we are eternal - created by Him to spend an eternity with Him.

Have you ever heard someone say, "This is taking an eternity"? It is usually when someone is waiting (often impatiently) for something. The next time you catch yourself thinking of eternity in terms of time, think of Jesus and your relationship to Him. Christ's death and resurrection assures those who believe in Him of that ongoing relationship that spans and conquers time and place. For eternity... forever.

Live each day thankful for Jesus' death and resurrection. Not only was it a historical event, but it was the way God made it possible for us to have a relationship with Him, now and for all eternity.

Our next School of Leaders will be Saturday April 17, at 9:00 A.M. via ZOOM.

Scripture reading and reflection - John Lyons

Spiritual Advisors presentation - Sr. Edna Michel (Chapter 6 of "His Way" by Fr, David Knight - available on Amazon and the National Cursillo website)

Lay presentation - John Welch (Chapter 7 of "The Study of the Charism", OMCC- available on the National Cursillo website. www.natl-cursillo.org)

If you plan to attend this Zoom meeting, please contact Karen Bonen via email at karenbonen@yahoo.com by Wednesday, April 14 with your email address. Invitations will be sent out with instructions on how to connect to the Zoom account on Thursday, April 15. We had 23 people in attendance at our last Zoom School of Leaders, and while it isn't the same as being in person with one another, it is still a good way to be able to see one another and share our experience, strength, and hope. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Keep your focus on the newly risen Christ.
John & Karen Bonen, Rectors.



Fourth Day

We hope that you had a fulfilling Lent. Lent is always a time to reflect on what we can do to improve our spiritual, mental and physical life. I found myself working hard on all of these. Some days were easy but others were hard. I found a reflection that put things into perspective. Have you felt that we have been in Lent for over 400 days? Because the pandemic started with Lent last year makes it feel like 400 days not 40 days sometimes. This past year has given us many challenges. For me I have found that having a great group of Cursillistas have led me along with the help of God's graces.

May this season of spring bring you and your family a new relationship with each other. But most importantly with God. The risen Lord is always walking with us, like he did with the disciples.

This Easter season we were able to go to church on Palm Sunday. To hear the Passion in person was beautiful. To be able to receive the Holy Eucharist is so heartwarming. What will this Easter Sunday bring to you? For me to witness God's beauty in the words being proclaim in person. I hope you will enjoy this Easter Sunday as much as I will.

May the Risen Lord Bless you and your Families. Rejoice in Him!

Love,

The Welch's and the Reinhart's

Post Cursillo Team:

John and Karen Reinhart
John and Luanne Welch,
email: John4toledo@yahoo.com



Prayervine:

Dave Sanchez - esophageal cancer, Christine - Covid, friend - having heart surgery, friend - house fire, Justin - for success of alcoholism treatment, Patty - battling alcoholism, Bob & Karen - fighting health issues, Tami - Covid, Yvonne - blood pressure struggles, a dad - pneumonia, his wife - scared and worried, Clara - retina surgery.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.

Secretariat Member openings

School of Leaders Rector/Rectors needed!

When we first went to the School of Leaders, we were so surprised at how comfortable we felt there. It felt like a 3-hour Cursillo weekend. (condensed version) We couldn't wait to go again the following month. Our love for SOL has grown immensely over the years. We were honored to serve as rector for the last 4 years. We have learned so much about our movement and have grown in our faith because of it. The School of Leaders is in need of new Rectors. Please take a moment and prayerfully consider this position within our movement.

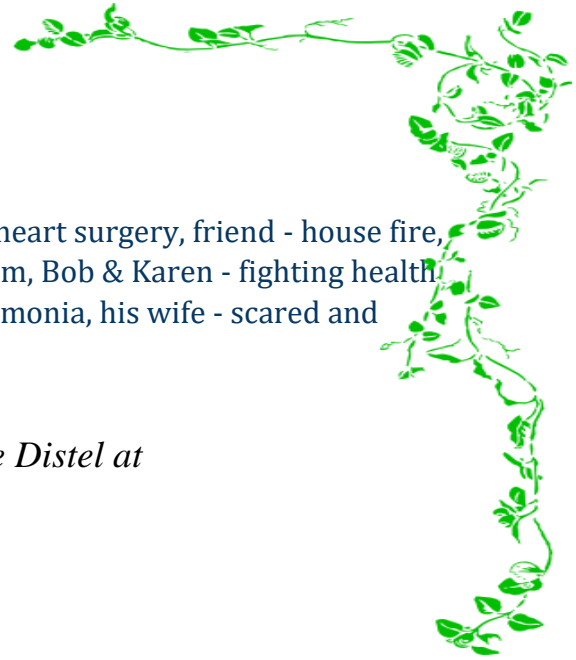
If you would like more information, please feel free to contact John & Karen Bonen (karenbonen@yahoo.com) or call/text us at 419-563-5115. We have been blessed beyond measure!

John & Karen Bonen

Other openings happening in June, 2021

Pre-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!



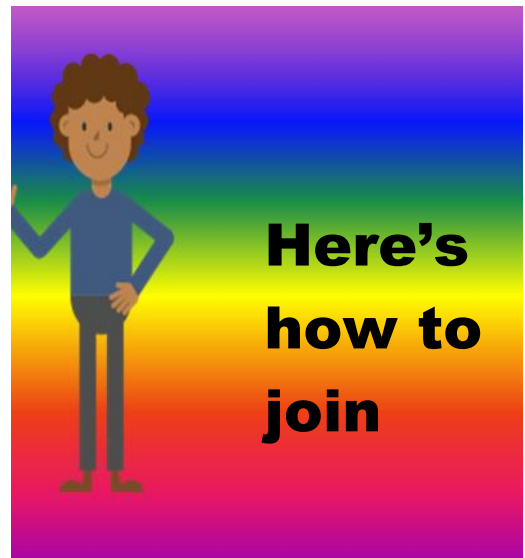


Diocesan Ultreya by Zoom Sunday, April 18th 2-4 PM

The Toledo Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat is inviting you to a virtual diocesan Ultreya!

We received so many positive comments after our first Virtual Ultreya on February 7th that we decided to have another. Please consider joining us to share faith, song, and friendship. While it's not like being together in person, it's a very good substitute until we can once more safely gather for those long awaited hugs!

1. You can join by computer, I-Pad, smartphone, Tablet or regular phone. If you are using a desktop computer, you will need a camera. Without it, you can join by phone only.
2. If you don't already have Zoom, you can download it for free at zoom.us. Click on download and then install. You will be asked a few questions: name, email, etc. You do not need to purchase anything! If you already have Zoom but haven't used it recently, click on zoom.us/update to get the most recent version.
3. Let John Lyons know you want to attend the virtual Ultreya: lyons5876@gmail.com
4. You will receive an invitation email from him a few days before the Ultreya with a link to join on Sunday (or a phone number, with the meeting number and passcode if you are joining by phone only).



See you soon!

*If you need help, contact
John Lyons*

Palanca

Happy Spring,

We have finally turned that corner in our weather where things are becoming new and refreshed. We sure need that now and then. It makes you think about maybe starting over again- kind of like the new year. Isn't it great that we have a God that lets us start over again, and again, and again....

His mercy can make all things better. Make each day a new day and refresh those relationships that have fizzled out or have gone cold. Maybe offer to pray for someone or spend time with an elderly person. Bring that newness to someone and you may bring them new life. And maybe they will see Christ in you through that kind act. What can you do for someone this Spring to bring new life? I have a suggestion- pray for your Cursillo brothers and sisters or fast the weekend of their gathering.

If you are going to do something, or anything, for one of these upcoming April Cursillos please let me know by the Tuesday before their Cursillo so I can let them know all the love and support that the Diocese of Toledo (Ohio not Spain) has for them.

Have a Blessed Easter and Happy Spring,

Jan Stainbrook (janicestainbrook@yahoo.com)

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
4/9/2021	4/11/2021	Women's 457 (French)	Outaouais, Quebec (Canada)
4/8/2021	4/11/2021	Men's 211 (English)	Pittsburgh, PA
4/15/2021	4/18/2021	Women's 212 (English)	Pittsburgh, PA
4/22/2021	4/25/2021	Men 's 111 (English)	Springfield/Cape Girardeau, MO



'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.

