



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.

February, 2023

Application Forms are on the

Website: www.cursillo419.org

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Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this on the Feast of St. Paul the Apostle, our Cursillo Patron. As we plan this new year ahead of us, there is no saint better to pattern our lives after. More than anyone else, Paul demonstrated to us all of the best character and virtue of which we are capable. He embraced each new day as another chance to serve Jesus Christ with more eagerness than the day before, despite the dangers that threatened him.

Paul summed up his attitude in this: *"I forget what is behind me and go forward to what lies ahead."* When he thought death was imminent, he told others to share his joy: *"Rejoice and be glad with me."* And when he faced danger, abuse and unjust treatment, he said: *"I am content with weakness, mistreatment and persecution," (for when I am weak, it is then that I am strong).*

Paul was continually beaten, abused and cursed, and he wore all that he endured on his person as if a badge of honor, that he had been given the opportunity to give glory to Jesus Christ, for whom he suffered. He did not complain about the abuse, but offered thanks to God for it all saying *"thanks be to God who is always victorious in us."*

The only thing that St. Paul truly worried about, the one focus of his life, was pleasing God. The most important thing of all to him, however, was that he knew he was loved by Christ. He relished Jesus' love and he considered himself happier than anyone else in the world. And if he were without Jesus' love, nothing in the world could take its place. He preferred that love and being the least of all in the world, to any other friendships or honors. To be without that love, in his eyes, would by itself have been hell and endless, unbearable torture. Being loved by Christ, Paul thought of himself as possessing life itself and all that the world contains.

Paul put no value in the things of this visible world, any more than we would on weeds or rocks. He paid no attention to people in positions of power and influence, or those who resisted his efforts to spread the gospel and the love of Christ.

Frustrations, resistance, sickness, torments, pain and death itself were nothing to him, as long as he might bear some burden for the sake of Christ. Whether preaching, traveling or restrained in a narrow prison, “Paul dwelt in heaven.”

We should not simply admire St. Paul, but also imitate this shining example of virtue. “In thinking of Paul we should not consider only his noble and lofty virtues or the strong and ready will that disposed him for such great graces. We should also realize that he shares our nature in every respect. If we do, then even what is very difficult will seem to us easy and light; we shall work hard during the short time we have on earth and someday we shall wear the incorruptible, immortal crown. This we shall do by the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom all glory and power belong, now and always through endless ages. Amen.”

(St. John Chrysostom, Posted Jan. 26, 2021, Cross Roads Init., Hom. 2 de laudibus Sancti Pauli: PG 50, 477-484)

DeColores,

Dcn. Denny Scherger

**Upcoming
2023 Cursillo Weekends**

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

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

February, the month that highlights love. Valentines day. Is this what “real” love looks like? Don’t get me wrong, that is one very true version of love. And God expects us to love one another.....right? But what love does God have in mind? To love my brothers and sisters as I want to be loved; to be treated. I remember telling my children while they were young to treat others as they wanted to be treated, not as they were necessarily being treated. And that in fact is very hard at times..isn’t it. God expects us to love our neighbors when they talk trash about us to other neighbors. When the guy in church presents an idea to the parish that was ours, not his. When our co-workers stepped up to help on a project and steer it away from us when we were really looking forward to working on it...and they knew it! And the list goes on.

Jesus went through all these things when He was here on earth. He knew what we would come up against and yet He called and continues to call us to love. He went through all of it so that we could get through it... with His strength and courage.

Mother Theresa said, “People are often unreasonable and self centered. Forgive them anyway”.

Love looks beyond the present to see what could be, what is possible. And if we cannot see it, then we need to have faith and trust in God.

Last Sunday’s gospel is from Matthew 4:35-41. The beatitudes.

How am I living for God? Am I putting Him first in my life by loving those around me? And I believe that family can be the hardest to love. They know all the buttons to push.

Peace, prayers, and blessings to all of you!

People are often unreasonable and self centered
FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY

*If you are kind people may accuse you of
ulterior motives*
BE KIND ANYWAY

If you are honest people may cheat you
BE HONEST ANYWAY

If you find happiness people may be jealous
BE HAPPY ANYWAY

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow
DO GOOD ANYWAY

*Give the world the best you have and
it may never be enough*
GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY

*What you spend years building,
Someone could destroy overnight,*
BUILD ANYWAY

*For you see in the end it is
BETWEEN YOU AND GOD*

It was never between you and them anyway
MOTHER TERESA

De Colores!

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com

Breathe! Trust God! And Love !!

Pre-Cursillo

So far we are still at 2 candidates.

Now is the time to talk to those people who were interested and couldn't come in the fall.

Now is also the time to talk to that one person that seems to be interested but not sure. Get them a application to fill out. Be their sponsor so that they have weekly groupings and Ultreya's to attend.

Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.

Thanks, looking forward to seeing more applications soon. Gary and Helen Keel

Gary & Helen Keel

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make a friend
be a friend
bring a friend to Jesus

Cursillo

Dear Friends

We are wishing for you to send us team applications! The men's Spring team is in place.

The ladies team is now forming and might have a few spots open for eager volunteers.

As always you can send your apps to us from the Cursillo website, you can call our home. 419-476-5589. Or you can snail mail your app.

3823 Willys

Pkwy. Toledo Oh. 43612

Thank you and God bless you.

Love and Prayers

The Huffman's

The forms can be found on our website: www.cursillo419.org.

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

mrhottsmom@outdrs.net

School of Leaders :

Valentines greetings to all our Cursillo family!

We are now in the month where we celebrate love and leadership, two of the things emphasized in our Cursillo movement. So, as we sit inside watching the snow fall, how can we spread a little more love around us, perhaps in our own home as well as for those struggling with any number of issues from health problems, to loneliness or financial worries to lack of faith?

Of course, our prayers come first and are most important, but a note, call, text or visit can bring the love of Jesus even in the midst of trials in a very tangible way.

This is the leadership of Cursillo, friends. One person at a time, one moment at a time, sharing the love of Jesus! Let us all be open to His leading us to those He wants us to touch for Him especially this month. We all know how He can use the smallest act of charity (our mustard seed) to grow something wonderful!

Our next School of Leaders is Saturday, Feb. 18 in the Marian room at Findlay St. Michaels. That is the first room on the right just after you turn right from the entrance.

We meet from 9 AM until noon. Doors open at 8:30.

John Lyons will lead our scripture and reflection.

John Bonen will present the next two chapters, Forgiven & Real Healing, Real Change in the book "Into His Likeness" by Edward Sri. (Pp. 81-93).

Deacon Denny Scherger will present the last half of chapter 5 and the conclusion of "From Christendom to Apostolic Mission". (Pp. 75-90).

We will also have copies of our next book for the spiritual director reflections available for purchase @ \$15.00 each.

The title is "Living With Real Presence - Eucharist as an Approach to Life" by S. James Meyer. It is published by Twenty-Third Publications.

We will begin reading that one in March. (Of course, you can get your own online if you prefer). Since we are entering into a time of Eucharistic revival in the church, this is highly recommended to strengthen our understanding and knowledge.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18th! Bring a friend and a snack to share. We will have the coffee & hot water on and lots of hugs and smiles!

Blessings, hugs, & Prayers,

Annie Blum. Annieblum516@gmail.com

Walter Beckford. Wbeckford@bex.net

Prayervine



Friend - laser eye surgery issues, young man with undiagnosed health issues, friend - prayers for answers to heart issues, Gus & Pat Miller - thanksgiving prayers for healing from illness, family with little one with multiple health issues - nothing more can be done, friend - leg issues & going to a specialist, Paul Cook - tests, Dick - hip replacement surgery, Barb Lovell's mom - fell, Matthew - staph infection in his foot, Patrick Steyer - continued prayers, friend - suspected bladder cancer, Sue Charney -

breast cancer, Percilla - broken hip & hand, Ron - cancer, neighbor - legal issues, needs prayer, Juan Duran - cancer, Paul Cook - surgical procedure.

Forth Day

From the Post Cursillo,

Happy New Year to all!. As the Men's team is forming, Bill and I are reminded that all of us need to be praying for the team and the possible candidates that will attend the men's weekend. We also have to look ahead to the Holy Hour and Closing. We are asking all of you to consider giving a witness for the Holy Hour and the Closing. Please consider sharing how Jesus is working in your life with all of us. Please contact Bill and I about your willingness to share. The women's weekend will be in April after Easter.

We are also in need of another couple to help with Focus Day planning. Please consider sharing your time, talents and treasures with all of us. Bill and Betty Obringer / wobringer@bex.net

Utreya

Our area 8 Utreya will be on Monday, Feb 13 from 7-9 PM @ Bucyrus Holy Trinity activity center meeting room. All are welcome!

Area 10 (Tiffin area) Utreya will be held on Sunday, February 19 at St. Joseph Activity Center, in Tiffin at 7 pm. It will be held in the Upper Room. Bring snacks if you like.



Palanca

February is the month of love. Who better to love you than our Lord Jesus Christ. One of my favorite scriptures is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 love is patient... Remember that love bears all things. Let us pray for each other that we can "bear all things", through Christ who loves us more than anything. DeColores Jan Stainbrook, Palanca Chair

UPCOMING CURSILLO WEEKENDS

2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Women's 687	Orange, CA
2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Women's Cursillo (English)	Ontario, Canada
2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Women's 29 (Portuguese)	Newark, NJ
2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Women's 125 (English)	Savannah, GA
2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Women's 219 (English)	Lubbock, TX
2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Women's 65 (Spanish)	Tyler, TX
2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Men's 428 (English)	San Antonio, TX
2/5/2023	2/5/2023	Cursillo De Cursillos (Spanish)	Houston, TX

2/2/2023	2/5/2023	Mens 1017 (Spanish)	Los Angeles, CA
2/9/2023	2/12/2023	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Lansing, MI
2/9/2023	2/12/2023	Women's 77 (English)	Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN
2/9/2023	2/12/2023	Men's Cursillo (English)	Biloxi, MS
2/9/2023	2/12/2023	Women's Cursillo (English)	Boston, MA
2/9/2023	2/12/2023	Women's 72 (Spanish)	San Salvador, El Salvador
2/9/2023	2/12/2023	Mens 108 (Spanish)	Los Angeles, CA
2/16/2023	2/19/2023	Women's 110 (Spanish)	Dodge City, KS
2/16/2023	2/19/2023	Men's 289 (Spanish)	Miami, FL
2/16/2023	2/19/2023	Men's 2023 (English)	Boise, ID
2/16/2023	2/19/2023	Men's 66 (English)	Tulsa, OK
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Women's 187 (English)	Saint Louis, MO
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Men's 78 (English)	Charleston, SC
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Women's 24 (Spanish)	Arlington, VA
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Men's 274 (English)	Kansas City / St Joseph, MO
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Men's 97 (English)	Evansville, IN
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Men's 145 (English)	Atlanta, GA
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Women's 1328 (Spanish)	Monterrey, MX
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Women's 56 (Spanish)	Atlanta, GA
2/23/2023	2/26/2023	Men's Cursillo (English)	Crookston, MN

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

Secretariat Member openings :

Cursillo

Post-Cursillo (4th day) - additional persons for team

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!!'

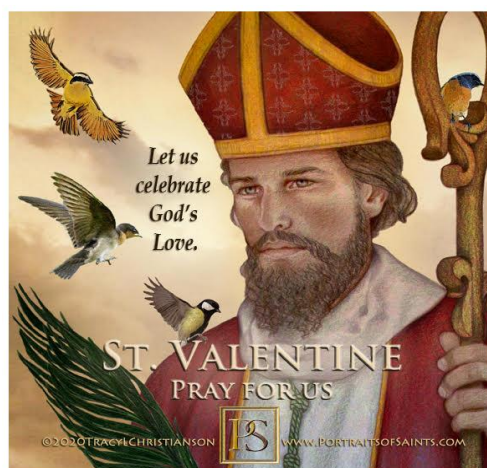
Eduardo Bonnin, Founder Cursillo Movement



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.



ST. Valentine, (died 3rd century, Rome; feast day February 14), By some accounts, St. Valentine was a Roman physician and a priest who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus about 270. Emperor Claudius had outlawed weddings, he wanted to recruit many men for his army and thought marriage would be an obstacle to recruiting new soldiers. When Claudius discovered that Valentine was performing weddings, he sent Valentine to jail. Valentine used his time in jail to continue to reach out to people with the love that he said Jesus Christ gave him for others. He befriended his jailer, Asterios, who became so impressed with Valentine's wisdom that he

asked Valentine to help his daughter, Julia, with her lessons. Julia was blind and needed someone to read material for her to learn it. Valentine became friends with Julia. Emperor Claudius also came to like Valentine, and offered to pardon him if he would renounce his Christian faith and agree to worship the Roman gods. Not only did Valentine refuse to leave his faith, but he encouraged Emperor Claudius to place his trust in Christ. Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia to stay close to Jesus and to thank her for being his friend, He signed the note "from your Valentine." The most famous miracle attributed to Saint Valentine involved the farewell note sent to Julia. Believers say that God miraculously cured Julia of her blindness so that she could personally read Valentine's note, rather than have someone else read it to her. Valentine was beaten, stoned and beheaded on February 14, 270. In 496, Pope Gelasius designated February 14th at Valentines official feast day.

