



# 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, 2022

Application Forms are on the Website:

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

Spiritual Advisor	Page 1
Lay Director	Page 3
Pre-Cursillo	Page 3
Cursillo with team lists	Page 4
School of Leaders	Page 5
Fourth Day	Page 5
Prayer Vine	Page 6
Palanca	Page 6
Secretariat Openings	Page 7

## Spiritual Advisor

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

My beloved sisters and brothers in the Cursillo family,

Synod and Synodality are in the air at this time, and I have an opportunity to continue my topic from January's School of Leaders on the topic, it is the subject of this article.

If you have had an opportunity to be at one of the sessions in the Diocese already or if you have viewed the Diocesan Website ([www.reconnecttoledo.org/synodality](http://www.reconnecttoledo.org/synodality)) then you have a heads up on what "synodality" is all about. Pat Oedy Murray is our diocesan leader and Bishop Thomas also gives information of the videos that are included in this website.

"Synodality" is in the Catholic Church a term 'often used to describe the process of fraternal collaboration and discernment that groups, like the Synod of Bishops, were created to express.' The word "synod" is a Greek word -syn =with; hodos =way; in other words - to come together, to walk together. Pope Paul VI began the Synod of Bishops in 1965 following the Second Vatican Council in order to implement the directives of the Council. (The Second Vatican Council could also be called a "synod").

Pope Francis formally opened the two-year process called "a synod on Synodality," officially known as the "Synod 2021-2023: **For a Synodal Church**." This process expands the Synod of Bishops to include consultation with the whole Church, worldwide. This announcement came in October of last year.

Our Bishop Thomas shared the Diocesan Preparatory Phase in his Leading the Flock article last October. In this article he explained the three objectives: **COMMUNION; PARTICIPATION** and **MISSION**.

As Pat Oedy Murray and Bishop Thomas indicate in the video, this is not a democratic process "town meeting" in which we voice our opinion about the Church and how it should be run. Rather, it is time to listen to the Holy Spirit so that we as Catholics can deepen our Communion with Christ in the Holy Spirit; deepen our participation with Christ in the Holy Spirit and deepen our mission with Christ in the Holy Spirit.

## Upcoming 2022 Cursillo Weekends

Men's March 7-10  
Women's March 31 - April 3

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

Email

Nancy Cook at  
[nancy750@bex.net](mailto:nancy750@bex.net)

There are TEN quotes from the original ten nuclei from the Pope's Document. The accompanying question in bold are the focus of our response. (These have been used in the meetings that have been scheduled throughout the diocese.)

1. "The journeying Companions"  
**How do we journey with and invite all people into the Body of Christ in our local Church?**
2. "Listening"  
**How do we listen to the voice of Christ in each person in our midst?**
3. "Speaking Out"  
**How do we speak with freedom and charity to communicate the truth of Christ in and to our community?**
4. "Celebrating"  
**How is our journey together based on and nourished by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist?**
5. "Co-Responsible in the Mission"  
**How is each baptized person called, formed and empowered to be missionary disciples?**
6. "Dialogue in the Church and in Society"  
**In dialogue and collaboration, how do we encourage the gifts and charisms of each person in the local Church and society, knowing that we are all members of the Body of Christ?**
7. "With the other Christian denominations"  
**How do we live out our relationship with Christ, and share in His mission with our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations?**
8. "Authority and Participation"  
**How is Church authority exercised in our particular Church, such that it promotes the responsibility and collaboration of the laity?**
9. "Discerning and Deciding"  
**How do hierarchically structured communities promote discernment and participation, with transparency and accountability, in communal decision making in obedience to the Spirit?**
10. "Forming Ourselves in Synodality"  
**How do we cooperate with the grace of the Holy spirit to be formed into disciples more capable of journeying together, listening to one another and engaging in dialogue?**

These are not easy questions, but they do offer a lot to think about and pray about. Perhaps they can be offered in our group reunions and ultreyas to reflect on, chew on and pray over.

God bless you on your journey together into 2022.

Fr Jim Brown



## Lay Director

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

Can you believe it is time for the groundhog to show up? Where has the time gone? It seemed like yesterday we were in the middle of planning for the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and then wow! It's 2022. Time does fly! So, did you make a New Year's resolution? Are you keeping it? Well as good as that would be to keep, a better thought might be... How am I growing closer to God? Do I do a better job at being Christ to others than I have in the past? Do I love them better, more, deeper? Or is it surface stuff?

In the second reading today, Paul tells the Corinthians what love is. (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13). It is a favorite of mine. It starts out by telling me (us) to "strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts." And then throws in..." But I shall show you a still more excellent way." I'm sure you all are familiar with this Bible passage or know it by heart. A more excellent way of what? Loving others and loving God. This all comes on the heels of Valentine's Day. A day celebrated in the secular world for loving others. Wouldn't it be great if we could celebrate that every day? Loving and not hating?



So, February is here. More planning for the upcoming weekends to be held in Tiffin @ St. Francis Spirituality Center. A new home. A new beginning. Seems like a great place to start fresh. One final thought: God has given us all talents of different varieties and levels to use to build His Kingdom and bring others into a closer friendship with Christ. Are we using them to the fullest? Cursillo could use more talents of all varieties and levels to help our movement become an even stronger agent for change in the world. Consider taking that step to further the Kingdom of God by becoming involved in the leadership of this movement. Ultreya!

May the peace of Christ always disturb your life!

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

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

## Pre-Cursillo

We have three candidate applications for the Men's Weekend (March 10th to March 13th). Candidate invitation letters will be sent to them next week. The deadline for the Men's Weekend applications was updated to February 27th.

We have 2 candidate applications for the Women's Weekend (March 31st to February 3rd). The deadline for the Women's Weekend is March 17th.

Gary & Helen Keel  
4236 Woodmont Rd  
Toledo Oh 43613  
419.476.9347  
[hkeel@buckeye-express.com](mailto:hkeel@buckeye-express.com)

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

## Cursillo

Dear friends,

Yep. It's February already. The teams for the Spring weekends are in place. A huge thank you to all who have said Yes to working for the Lord yet once again. You will surely be blessed for the lives you will touch. *Please continue to hold these Godly people in your prayers as they continue with team formation.* And pray for lots of candidates!

### Men's Team 285

#### Position

#### Assigned

Spiritual Directors

Fr. Tom Extejt  
Deacon Greg Kirk

Rectors

Mike Cherry  
Mike Huffman

Sacristan

Brother Dan Hall

Musicians

Bill Obringer

Mike Jennings

Disciples

Head

Steve Grycza  
Greg Dobbertien  
Bryan Blevins

Shepherds

Head

Rami Martinez  
Ric Smith  
Mike Ruhlen  
Chris Solly  
Chris Witt

Table Leaders

Roger Brickner  
Mike Powers  
Mike Roberts  
Mark Spears

#### Talks

Ideals

Mike Ruhlen

Lay Person in the Church

Mike Roberts

Piety

Roger Brickner

Study

Ric Smith

Action

Mark Spears

Leaders

Mike Powers

Study of the Environment

Chris Witt

Christianity in Action

Chris Solly

The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo

Mike Huffman

Total Security - Group Reunion,

Mike Cherry

Ultreya



Women's Team 286

Spiritual Directors  
 Rectors  
 Musicians

Father Kevin Moebius and Deacon Jerry Gubernath  
 Judy Ruhlen and Kathy Otermat  
 Jeanne Badik and Kathy Huffman

And the rest of the team!

Joanne Kosta  
 Therese Cherry  
 Patti Kreilick  
 Chrissy Vasko  
 Deb Karbowskiak  
 Barb Grycza  
 Annie Blum

Karen Reinhart  
 Jane Distel  
 Beulah Horn  
 Linda Gubernath  
 Barb Stager  
 Jan Stainbrook  
 Elaine Sweet

## Love and Prayers!

Kathy & Mike Huffman  
 3823 Willys Parkway  
 Toledo Oh 43612  
 419.476.5589  
 mrhottsmom@outdrs.net

**School of Leaders**

“I Will Guide You Along The Best Pathway For Your Life. I Will Advise You And Watch Over You”.  
 (Psalm 32:8)

Let's all make sure our compass is pointing straight toward our God!

Our next School Of Leaders will be February 19 from 9am. to noon at St. Michael's in Findlay OH. Doors open at 8:30. We meet in the school in the Marian room. That is the first room on the right after you turn right at the first hallway.

John Welch will do a Scripture reading with reflection.

Presenting will be Fr. Ed Littelmann with Chapter 1 of “From Christendom To Apostolic Mission”.  
 John Lyons with chapter 1 of “Into His Likeness” by Edward Sri.

Come and join us with prayer, music, food, and fun fellowship. Bring a snack plate or dish if you wish. Coffee and tea are provided.

See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

De Colores, friends!

Annie Blum [annieblum516@gmail.com](mailto:annieblum516@gmail.com)  
 Walter Beckford [wbeckford@bex.net](mailto:wbeckford@bex.net)



## Fourth Day

John 4:46 “I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me will not remain in the darkness”



A quote I read recently states, “The enemy is not fighting you because you are weak, but because you are strong.” We are strong! As individuals and as a whole, we are strong in Christ!

Each of us has the light of Christ burning within us. Christ wants us to shine this light...shine His light through our kind words, humble attitude, smile, good works, songs, inspiration, reaching out to others through a call, text or visit, loving and praying for one another...through these many things, our light helps light the hearts and souls of others. Our light of Christ gives others hope, love, peace and STRENGTH!

In these cold, darker days of winter we especially need to shine the light of Christ more brightly. Use your 4th day to strengthen the light in others and help make all hearts burn brighter! We need each other to remain strong!

De Colores!

Karen Reinhart, John and Luanne Welch  
Toledo Cursillo 4th Day

## Prayervine

For all those in danger, for those reaching out to others, Karen - passed away, Ken - chemotherapy, Carson - Covid, Jim & wife - Covid, Pat - liver cancer, cousin's family - Covid, Anna Friday - blood clots in lungs, Mike Wise - open heart surgery, Jim Allen - passed away, family who lost a 20 year old young man, Mike & Joan - Mike's heart surgery, Kim - needs prayers, Leon Steyer - passed away, Jackie - pneumonia, Denny Karl - passed away, palanca for Cursillo #285.

*Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at*  
[prayersaregoingup@gmail.com](mailto:prayersaregoingup@gmail.com).

## Palanca Requests

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
2/3/2022	2/6/2022	Men's 140 (English)	Birmingham, AL
2/3/2022	2/6/2022	Women's 90 (English)	Worcester, MA
2/10/2022	2/13/2022	Men's 133 (English)	Memphis, TN
2/17/2022	2/20/2022	Men`s 203 (Spanish)	Rockville Centre,NY
2/17/2022	2/20/2022	Men's 257 (English)	Green Bay, WI
2/17/2022	2/20/2022	Woman's 62 (Spanish)	Tyler, Tx
2/18/2022	2/21/2022	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Omaha, NE
2/23/2022	2/26/2022	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	De León, Gto (Mexico)

2/24/2022	2/27/2022	Men's 115 (English)	Nashville, TN
2/24/2022	2/27/2022	Men's 115 (English)	Springfield/Cape Girardeau, MO
2/24/2022	2/27/2022	Men's 95 (English)	Evansville, IN

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For one who has balked at getting to know the internet, it sure does come in handy in a pinch, many pinches. So, being that it is February, I searched “best love quotes in the bible” (I can’t even condense my search words) and found lots of sites. One site - Christianity.com (how simple and to the point) stated that “love is actually one of the most frequently used terms in the Bible, found 310 times in 280 verses in the KJV translation”. I found that impressive, but I am sure there are different statistics on that too. But needless to say - that’s a lot of loving going on. And a lot of instruction that is given to us by the prophets, Jesus, his followers and ultimately God. Therefore, it is essential that we seek communion with God in order to share this love with those in our life. “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him” 1John 4:16. He comes first so that we can love others second.

So, I encourage you to look up a few of those 310 quotes and ask God what he is putting on your heart. Along with that, I encourage you to love each other and pray for the Cursillos coming up in this month of “love”. And remember one thing - “love never fails”.

In HIS love,

Jan Stainbrook, Palanca Chair

## Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings



Post-Cursillo (4<sup>th</sup> 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!

*‘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.