

# 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.

## May 2020

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

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## Upcoming Cursillo Weekends 2020

English Men – Sept. 17 – 20, 2020

Spanish Men – Fall 2020

Spanish Women - Fall 2020

English Women Oct. 15 -19, 2020

Please share how Christ is working in your life.

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

My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

Easter greetings to all ***Christ is risen! He is truly risen!***

As we endure this unprecedented time in our history and truly miss the “normal” - everything! including the Women’s Weekend 284 (This very weekend), we are finding new ways of dealing with the situation in which we find ourselves. Just a reminder, the risen Lord Jesus is in charge. “Do not be afraid! - Trust in Me.”

Dr. Mary Healy has an interesting take on this in the National Catholic Register see: (<https://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/is-the-coronavirus-pandemic-a-judgment-from-God>)

I think she gives us all something to think about.

While working on different programs I came across some relative information that I think may be helpful for us all.

Think of two circles side by side. One is your **circle of influence**...the people in your life that you share something in common or are in touch with them in some way: family -immediate and distant; co-workers or staff; prayer groups, Cursillo groups and ultreyas; fellow parishioners, friends and neighbors etc. Anyone who touched your life at some time or another or whose life you touch in some significant way. These are the people in your life that you can touch with prayer, outreach by email, letters and cards, phone calls and Facetime. These are the people you can share your faith with and listen to their sharing and or their needs.

This list of people continues to grow and expand and is a part of our prayer time. Just think of all the people you share the Cursillo experience with by the teams you have been on, the Groups you are in or have been, the Ultreas you attend. Like blowing up a balloon, it gets bigger and bigger and that is a good thing.

In this circle we invite Jesus to use us to reach out to others with his grace and love and words of encouragement.

Then there is the **circle of concern**. This too is an ever-expanding circle but for the most part you cannot change things in this circle, you have no influence over except your prayer. This circle would include the COVID 19 pandemic, the economic situation, the sickness of loved ones and the death of so many. The shuttering of our churches, business and entertainment centers. The feelings of isolation and separation and what that can be doing for families, our children and the elderly folks especially. Here we look to the risen Jesus and Lord to bring about His healing touch and presence to all our concerns and needs both here and now and throughout the whole world.

You are all in my circle of influence and I thank you for your love and prayers and concern for me as I extend mine to each of you.

## THIS VIRTUAL



## HUG IS 4 YOU

Fr Jim

## Lay Director

*(editor note – this article is from May, 2019 and the words from one year ago are so relevant today)*

Did you know that you are “to die for” ??? That is often the theme of salvation that is the message of Good Friday, Jesus taking your Cross, Jesus taking my Cross, Jesus taking the world’s Cross. And for all of us, our Lord is doing so as an act of eternal love. For some reason, this year I see much better the rest of the message. What is the rest of the message?...

The Resurrection is the message. We are “to live for” people! Our salvation is not secured until Jesus rises for the dead. We have no ability to find forgiveness of our sin until He is alive, and the wages of our sin – death – is paid for in full. Now, we are challenged with the need to return His love. Metanoia – every day with the gifts that have blessed our being, we spread the comforter of His love over those who are sent our way. We watch our hearts change, we watch our attitudes change, we notice that our thoughts change and by the grace we are given, we are changed. We become like Him in Resurrection, because Good Friday has paid the price.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He stayed and appeared as the proof and witness to His disciples. That was important, yet really just the prelude to the power of love that was to grow the Church – the Body of Christ. In a few weeks, we will be reminded that we are not just “to die for”, not just “to live for” ... we are “to live for Him” – Pentecost. During this Easter season, my prayer is that we as the Cursillo Community here in the Toledo Diocese rekindle the fire of Pentecost, and bring that excitement to our lives, our environments and where ever the Spirit leads us to spark the Love of God.

Please, offer your heart as a living sacrifice, your spiritual worship to our Movement. Find that friend, go to Group, take your Group to Ultrea, attend School of Leaders, submit a Team Application, consider

stepping up to be a Rector or a position on the Secretariat, send a few dollars if you are so blessed ... but MOST importantly – Palanca, pray, pray, pray ... “a decade (or five) a day”.

Every day is a day the Lord has made, and every day is made for you, and you were made for every day. My prayer for you is that you find the Lord and the Lord’s work each and every day, after all you are

*“to live for ..... Jesus”.*

...Ultreya!

De Colores!!!  
Tim Haney

## **Pre-Cursillo**

Happy May, month of our Blessed Mother!

When you go on a journey, whether for vacation, work, or just a road trip, how do you prepare? What are you focused on in that preparation? Are you excited, or just going because you have to?

For this last month and half, we have certainly been on a journey that we never would have thought we would be taking! It is not a journey we want to be on. It is one that has taken so much away from us, especially the Eucharist. This has not been a joyful journey. It has been tough in so many ways, but it is one that is hopefully changing our hearts. It is one that we will come through and be stronger for our experiences.

Now think of our Cursillo candidates. They are saying ‘yes’ to a journey that they don’t know exactly where they are going, or what to expect. They come to us on Thursday evening with many different feelings: uncertainty, nervousness, ‘Do I really want to be here?’, and so many more. But as the weekend unfolds, they begin to see what is before them. They start to see joy and expectation. They start to see how Jesus is working in their lives. They are ready to bring Jesus with them to their environments after the weekend. How many times we have seen this jubilation at the closing on Sunday evening!

Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus in our readings this past weekend (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter) started out not sure, meeting Jesus on the road, finding their hearts burning within them as he interpreted the Scriptures, and then recognizing him in the breaking of the bread, so our candidates, and us as well, make the journey. The disciples’ journey took on a new focus, and they couldn’t wait to tell the other disciples about all they had seen and heard. Where is our journey taking us? Are our hearts burning within us? Are we ready to share Jesus with those around us?

Just a reminder, if you have candidate applications for the fall weekends, please send them in. We will carry over applications from the spring weekends (for the men unable to attend, and all the applications already sent in for the women) to this fall. Dates for the fall weekends are:

Men – September 17-20,  
Women – October 15-18.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a Happy Easter Season!

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Pre-Cursillo Chairperson  
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*Make a Friend – Be A Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ*

## **From the Cursillo Chair....**

This has been a Spring like none I've ever experienced, and most of you as well I am sure. God has made it very clear that He is in charge. He has also graced us with more free - "just be" - time than most of us can probably remember ever having. "Be still and know that I am God" is being heard loud and clear in the silence. Our prayers have been with all our Cursillo family; praying you are safe and healthy.

We haven't really anything to report right now. We will, hopefully, be living the Spanish weekends in August and September - and the Ladies' "Spring" weekend in October. As always, please contact us if you are looking forward to working a weekend in the future. We will surely put you on the list and send you information.

Love and Prayers Continue,  
The Huffmans

## **School of Leaders...**

Our School of Leaders meeting on April 18, 2020 was held via Zoom. It was well attended, and we had a great meeting. We did have a couple of technical issues that were resolved. Thanks to all for their patience. We are still looking to fill the positions of Facilities and School of Leaders. (new term starts July 1, 2020). If you have any suggestions, please let us know. A great big thank you to Kathy Otermat for accepting the Lay Directors position for the next term.

Our next School of Leaders meeting will be Saturday May 16, 2020 @ 9 A.M. again via Zoom. Bible reading and reflection will be given by Dale Fair. Sr Mary Jo Szpila will be presenting Chapter 10 from The Joy of Discipleship. Lay presentation will be the second half of Chapter 7 of Perfectly Yourself presented by Sharon DeCant.

If you plan to attend, please send an email to Karen Bonen ([karenbonen@yahoo.com](mailto:karenbonen@yahoo.com)) with your email address by May 13, 2020. The Zoom invitation will be sent out on Friday, May 15, 2020.

There will be no School of Leaders in June. Instead, we will have our Focus Day on June 20, 2020. Look for more information to follow. As we all adhere to our "shelter in place" orders, be assured of our prayers for all of you. Please pray for each other. Stay well, stay safe and stay strong.

God bless you,

God Bless,  
John & Karen Bonen, Rectors  
Team; Carol & George Miller, Joan Alge, Sharon DeCant

## Fourth Day

COVID 19, who would've ever imagined we would be part of such an experience in our life? Yes, although the slot of time can be for some a very intense moment, for some the slot of time might just be a vacation from there "TOO BUSY" life. A life which is nothing more than just being busy but not accomplishing much. For our heroes in this time, our wonderful healthcare personnel, it may be the toughest time that they never see. For others prayerfully, it is spending more time with God.

Yes, we all have had to adjust our lifestyles and make sacrifices that we just don't like. Maybe the biggest adjustment has been not going to mass and not receiving Jesus. I will admit, I do not feel that Jesus is not with me it is more how much do I let him be with me. If I did keep Jesus with me all the time, then I wouldn't be a sinner.

There will be an end to this slot of time, there will be a cure to this virus. When it is over where will you be? Will you be the leader in your environment for God? Will you be ready to be Jesus's mouth, hands and feet? Can you be Jesus's sister or brother? Or will you deny him three times? It happened to his rock, Peter.

As we prepare for this slot of time to come to an end, are we preparing to be a leader for Jesus not for just Cursillo? From the teachings we have through Cursillo, we are given the knowledge to approach a new neighbor to love. Our hearts give us strength, the Holy Spirit will do the work.

We all must remember, this "slot of time" will only be for a short moment in our life in a few years. This slot of time will only be a blip in eternity. As Cursillistas do, be ready to do God's work when our environments open up. Because being with Jesus for eternity is the goal.

Blessings,  
John Reinhart

## Prayervine:

For the pandemic, Bev Strauser - upper respiratory infection, niece - breast cancer, Jane Thompson - cancer, for healthcare workers, prayers for the pandemic, Katie - tested for Covid-19, Tim - apparent heart attack, Fred - brain stem tumor, Sarah - stroke, Peggy's mom - trouble communicating & moving by herself, Rosie - pneumonia, couple with possible coronavirus, Paul Kaiser - passed away, Jim - dying of cancer, brother - severe health issues, Tammy - in hospital for possible Covid 19, Rob - Covid 19 exposure.



*Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at*

[prayersaregoingup@gmail.com](mailto:prayersaregoingup@gmail.com).

## **Open Positions for Secretariat**

There are positions that will be opening as of June this year on the Secretariat Board: Assistant Lay humbling and blessed way to serve God in the Cursillo movement. Phil and I have been serving as Facilities and have learned from a different perspective than we had before about service and sacrificial love toward all who are a part of Cursillo. If you are discerning about any of these positions, don't wait for us to call you!!! Contact us and we'll be happy to answer any questions you have. Ultreya

Amy and Phil Hoffman

## **Prayers for the Month of May**

Prayer to St. Corona in a Time of Epidemic

Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic.

Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those who have gone astray, and above all, increase our faith, O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St. Corona, who gave her life for love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

St. Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

## **Palanca Requests...**Please pray for the success of these Cursillo Weekends.

Cursillo weekends for the month of May, 2020

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
5/14/2020	5/17/2020	Men's 139 (Spanish)	Raleigh, NC
5/14/2020	5/17/2020	Women's 149 (Spanish)	Philadelphia, PA
5/14/2020	5/17/2020	Women's 262 (Spanish)	Miami, FL
5/21/2020	5/24/2020	Men's 675 (Vietnamese)	Orange, CA
5/21/2020	5/24/2020	Women's 137 (Spanish)	Torreon, Coah (Mexico)
5/28/2020	5/31/2020	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Allentown, PA
5/28/2020	5/31/2020	Women's 676 (Vietnamese)	Orange, CA
5/28/2020	5/31/2020	Women's 89 (English)	Worcester, MA

## **Ultreya**

**IN KEEPING WITH TOLEDO DIOCESE - ALL ULTREYA'S ARE CANCELLED THIS MONTH**

### **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.

## PRAYER OF RENEWAL OF OUR CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – May 1, 2020

Let us now entrust our country and ourselves once again to the Virgin Mary's care: Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, you are the fairest fruit of God's redeeming love; you sing of the Father's mercy and accompany us with a mother's love. In this time of pandemic we come to you, our sign of sure hope and comfort. Today we renew the act of consecration and entrustment carried out by those who have gone before us.

With the love of a Mother and Handmaid, embrace our nation which we entrust and consecrate once again to you, together with ourselves and our families.

In a special way we commend to you those particularly in need of your maternal care.

Mary, Health of the Sick, sign of health, of healing, and of divine hope for the sick, we entrust to you all who are infected with the coronavirus.

Mary, Mother of Consolation, who console with a mother's love all who turn to you, we entrust to you all those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic.

Mary, Help of Christians, who come to our rescue in every trial, we entrust to your loving protection all caregivers.

Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy, who embrace all those who call upon your help in their distress, we entrust to you all who are suffering in any way from the pandemic.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, who were so wonderfully filled with the light of truth, we entrust to you all who are working to find a cure to this pandemic.

Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, who gave yourself wholeheartedly to God's plan for the renewing of all things in Christ, we entrust to you all leaders and policymakers. Accept with the benevolence of a Mother the act of consecration that we make today with confidence, and help us to be your Son's instruments for the healing and salvation of our country and the world.

Mary, Mother of the Church, you are enthroned as queen at your Son's right hand: we ask your intercession for the needs of our country, that every desire for good may be blessed and strengthened, that faith may be revived and nourished, hope sustained and enlightened, charity awakened and animated; guide us, we pray, along the path of holiness.

Mary our Mother, bring everyone under your protection and entrust everyone to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER As we conclude this consecration, we ask the blessing of Almighty God: Let us pray. Bestow the grace of your kindness upon your supplicant people, O Lord, that, formed by you, their creator, and restored by you, their sustainer, through your constant action they may be saved. Amen.