



# 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.

## October 2024

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

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## Spiritual Advisor

"I love you, Lord, my Rock, my strength, my fortress." *Psalm 18*

"The Lord showed me the river and bid me step in." - *Rev. 22:1*

"There is a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones together." *Eccl 3:5*

Dear friends and Journeyers,

There is a park nearby where I like to go when I need wisdom, perspective and peace. Its walking path is along the Sandusky River. Due to the recent drought, the water level was very low when I went there recently and rocks were visible in the dried up parts of the riverbed. I thought of a song by Peter Mayer. I'm including the lyrics below, but if you want to listen to it, here is the link: <https://www.letras.com.br/peter-mayer/god-is-a-river>

In the "river of life" we do, at times get overwhelmed by the chaos which surrounds us, in our personal lives or the lives of those we know and love, and surely in this tumultuous world, so we do seek out some solid ground on which to anchor ourselves. Our faith is probably one of the largest rocks, but sometimes we also cling to other rocks: "the kind of world in which I grew up," "the culture and traditions with which I am familiar," "the code of conduct, ethics and morality which I was taught," "the warnings and fears instilled in me by well-intentioned people," "my personal opinions and preferences," etc.

So how do I respond when a 26-year old grandson who has always been thoughtful, prudent and sincere wants to transgender? What fears and instincts are triggered in me when a few Haitian, Iraqi, or Central American families begin to live in my neighborhood? Doesn't America belong predominantly or exclusively to the descendants of white Europeans? Weren't we better off in former decades when women weren't allowed to be educated and couldn't be trusted to make wise choices? Notice the rocks we cling to.

The challenge is to discern which rocks are necessary to cling to and which ones God is bidding us to let go of. While we have a solid and dependable basis of Church teaching that points out time-tested truth, the Church also says that these teachings need to be interpreted in and for each generation because our faith is a *living faith*, responding to the needs of the times. So then the question becomes, how do we discern?

Here I believe Pope Francis is leading the way by calling for a **Listening Church, a Synodal Church**. If we sincerely, openly, and humbly listen to the hopes, desires, and sufferings of people, we *will* find a way

forward. We will discover God's Truth. We cannot live into the future by facing the past; by clinging tightly to the ways we've grown familiar and comfortable with. It's scarier to step into the unknown, into the River, but I think it may be where God is calling us at this time. Let's pray for the Synod on Synodality this month in Rome, and let's also pray for the discipline of genuine, heartfelt, sincere listening on our part. "God is the river, swimmer, so let go."

Love, Sr. Edna

**God Is A River** - Peter Mayer

In the ever-shifting water of the river of this life  
I was swimming, seeking comfort; I was wrestling waves to find  
A boulder I could cling to, a stone to hold me fast  
Where I might let the fretful water of this river 'round me pass

And so I found an anchor, a blessed resting place  
A trusty rock I called my savior, for there I would be safe  
From the river and its dangers, and I proclaimed my rock divine  
And I prayed to it "protect me" and the rock replied

God is a river, not just a stone  
God is a wild, raging rapids  
And a slow, meandering flow  
God is a deep and narrow passage  
And a peaceful, sandy shoal  
God is the river, swimmer  
So let go

Still I clung to my rock tightly with conviction in my arms  
Never looking at the stream to keep my mind from thoughts of harm  
But the river kept on coming, kept on tugging at my legs  
Till at last my fingers faltered, and I was swept away

So I'm going with the flow now, these relentless twists and bends  
Acclimating to the motion, and a sense of being led  
And this river's like my body now, it carries me along  
Through the ever-changing scenes and by the rocks that sing this song

God is a river, not just a stone  
God is a wild, raging rapids  
And a slow, meandering flow  
God is a deep and narrow passage  
And a peaceful, sandy shoal  
God is the river, swimmer  
So let go

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## Lay Director

Welcome, October! I love this time of year when the air starts to be crisp, the leaves turn to a blaze of many vibrant colors, and the crops in the fields finish their final drying process prior to harvest. So many opportunities for us to be filled with awe and wonder.

If you had the opportunity to attend the closing for the Cursillo #295 men's weekend, you know that the weekend was a time of awe and wonder. The men who attended were certainly touched by the love of God. We all know their experience, because it is an experience we all share. 1 John 4:16a "So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us." It is so good to be able to more fully understand the love that God has for each and every one of us!

We are called to share that love that we have received. As Paul tells us in Colossians 3:12 "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." What's the next step?

We learned on our Cursillo weekend that our mission as followers of Christ is to spread the love of God by "making a friend, being a friend, and bringing that friend to Christ". Most of us are not called to live that mission in far off locations. "Bloom Where You're Planted" is an older hymn often sung years ago, but its message is still valid. God has placed us where He wants us to be, where He needs us to be, for His plan of salvation. Who in your family, your workplace, your church, your neighborhood could benefit from being your friend, learning about the love of God through your love for them?



That verse from Colossians reminds me of my mom. She certainly had a compassionate heart, and her humility, gentleness, and patience were obvious. (Especially to her 5 children. We were a handful!) As a result, people were drawn to her, regardless of their age. As a kid growing up, my friends loved her. Her positive influence and genuine love for others made such a difference in the circles where she was "planted". Let us all take a closer look at those places where God has planted us and see where we can make a difference in the lives of those we touch.

As you may know, the costs for the weekends keep going up because that's how it is in the world. We're asking everyone to consider giving a small donation on a monthly or annual basis to help future candidates and team members to be able to participate without as much of a financial burden. (Our treasurer is Barb Stager, 4159 Grantley Rd., Toledo, OH 43613.) In addition, the movement also provides the "extras" for the weekend (Pilgrim's Guides, crosses, etc.) that are not included in the cost for the weekend, relying on what is received through donations given at closings and Focus Days. Your help is appreciated!

Ultreya!

Kathy Otermat  
John Lyons





**Pre-Cursillo**

The Women's #296 has five confirmed candidates (as of 9/27). Have at least one more applications on the way. Still have time and room for more!

The weekend is October 17th thru October 20th. Call or e-mail us if you have any questions.

Helen & Gary Keel  
[hkeel@buckeye-express.com](mailto:hkeel@buckeye-express.com)  
 419-476-9347

**296 Candidates October 17- 20th**

<b>Pam Mendoza</b>	<b>St. Michael</b>	<b>Gibsonburg</b>
<b>Elizabeth Brown</b>	<b>Holy Angels</b>	<b>Sandusky</b>
<b>Jessica Guernsey</b>	<b>All Saints</b>	<b>New Riegel</b>
<b>Andrea Morrow</b>	<b>St. Mary of the Assumption</b>	<b>Van Wert</b>
<b>Charmaine Teets</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>	<b>Bucyrus</b>

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



Happy Fall, I was on Cursillo Team 295. I was a Disciple in the Prayer Chapel a very Peaceful place to be.If you wish to work a Cursillo Team please send your Applications to [robertdrewior774@gmail.com](mailto:robertdrewior774@gmail.com) or [dzaborsky411@gmail.com](mailto:dzaborsky411@gmail.com). this is mandatory.  
 Have a safe fall season and enjoy Gods Nature.  
 DeColores  
 Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

**CURSILLO TEAM # 296**

Fr. Chris Bohnsack	Spiritual Director	Dcn. Denny Scherger	Spiritual Director		
Jane Distel	Rector	Joyce Haney	Disciple		
Judy Ruhlen	Rector	Kay Kruzel	Disciple		
Kathy Huffman	Disciple	Annabell Swint	Disciple		
Mary Ann Hohman	Sacristan	Becky Smeltz	Security		
Jane Lopez	Professor	Ideal	Karen Fritsch	Professor	Layperson in Church
Ellen Doran	Professor	Piety	Betty Obringer	Professor	Study
Alicia Swartzmiller	Professor	Action	Mary Ann Hohman	Professor	Leaders
Margaret Boltz	Professor	Environments	Becky Smeltz	Professor	Christianity in Action
Chrissy Vasko	Head Shepherd		Jane Lopez	Shepherd	
Dani Peebles	Shepherd		Ellen Doran	Shepherd	
Alicai Swartzmiller	Shepherd				



School of Leaders

Happy fall to all my Cursillo family!

October is just one of the very BEST months of the year (in my humble opinion, at least).

We have those leaves changing colors daily, cooler temps, lots of sunny days, and crisp nights, apples and pumpkins and mums decorating the landscape...

And then we have some wonderful feast days (St. Therese, St. Francis of Assisi, Our Lady Queen of the Rosary to name a few) in addition to our Women’s Cursillo and the

remaining glow of the Sept. Men’s Cursillo!

All of these things makes my heart constantly remembering the DeColores song!

I think God has given us these things to awaken our minds and hearts to His constant and persistent love, calling us to be missionaries for Him.

School of Leaders is a great way to stay on the path of awareness of the call of the Lord.

Our October gathering will be Sat., October 19 @ Findlay St. Michaels. We will meet in the cafeteria (go straight in the hallway and follow the signs) from 9 AM to noon. Doors open at 8:30.

Walter Beckford is doing the scripture and reflection.

Brother Dan Hall is presenting the last chapter from “Living With Real Presence”, and Roger Brickner is covering chapter 12 of the book “Rescued”.

We always have inspiring discussions on these topics and leave with deeper insights into our faith.

Come one and all! Bring a snack to share and feel free to bring a friend.

Be assured we always “make room for one more” and you will leave refreshed and renewed, even if you haven’t been a “regular”.

We will have the hot water and coffee on and plenty of hugs and great music!

Blessings and Hugs,

Annie Blum

[Annieblum516@gmail.com](mailto:Annieblum516@gmail.com)

Walter Beckford

[Wbeckford@bex.net](mailto:Wbeckford@bex.net)



(prayers for the month)

Stacey & Ray Paige, and their children - healing, family with Covid, Debbie - mom's funeral & daughter-in-law passed also, for Cursillo 295 candidates, Mike Powers - heart attack, Sherri- heart attack, Sue - cellulitis, Ken Moore - cancer (in hospice care) and his family, friend - in hospital, Vicki - tongue cancer, Jesse - death in the family, his wife's sister passed, Jeff - brain surgery, Brandon - in hospital, Ian - in hospital, friend - cancer, Steve - Covid. Dave Z – back surgery, Sharon Laurent-recovering from hip replacement

### October Ultreyas

**Area 2** Ultreya's are on the 2nd Sunday of each month. 2-3 pm Jaeger Hall St Clements church.

**Area 7 and 10 Tiffin Area** – Ultreya for Seneca County, etc. is Oct. 27th at St. Joseph Upper Room in Tiffin at 7pm.

**Area 8** October Ultreya will be held on October 14, 2024 at the Activities Center at St Joe's in Galion from 7-9 PM. All are welcome!

### 4<sup>th</sup> Day / Post Cursillo

DeColores its Fall! We are happy to welcome all the new Cursillistas to our family. Please plan on attending the Women's Cursillo 296 Holy Hour at 8pm on Oct. 19th and the Closing on Oct. 20th at 4:30pm (please be there by 4pm). Both are in the Saint Francis Chapel in Tiffin. Also, mark your calendars for the Fall Focus Day on Nov. 16th at St. Wendelin Parish Hall in Fostoria from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. More information will be in

#### Cursillo Strategy: Fourth Day

- Specific support for study, prayer and action through:
  - Ongoing small groups
  - Larger diocesan gatherings to hear encouraging examples of Christian action.



the Nov. Ark. Please attend as many of these events as possible to keep our Cursillo Movement growing and thriving.

Post Cursillo: Becky Smeltz, Angie Mehling, Bill and Betty Obringer



Please share what you are doing for Palanca! email to =

[Palanca419@outlook.com](mailto:Palanca419@outlook.com)

Jack B. Reuter, Palanca Chair

Witness : share how God is working in your life = email to = [judbrick616@gmail.com](mailto:judbrick616@gmail.com)

### *Current openings on Secretariat*

*For your information and reflection -- there are several positions on Secretariat that will be opening for replacements—*

#### *School of Leaders*

*The current position holders will be with you one year to familiarize you with the service position you assume/step into.*



**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.

**TOLEDO 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.







