

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.

December 2020

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

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Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Weekends are postponed

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

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

My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our loving Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Greetings to you all in this precious Advent and Christmas Season.

Although on the surface things look pretty much the same yesterday as they do today, yet it is a new year, liturgy wise. A fresh opportunity to prepare for Jesus's coming on his Birthday at Christmas, at the Second coming and in the myriad different ways he comes to us each and every day.

Because of our Cursillo experience, we know how to look for Jesus in one another. Perhaps we need a refresher and so Advent offers us that time and place to practice.

I uncovered a Christmas Card that I received last year from Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic Team that I'd like to share with you all. It captures my own sentiments, but they have a much better wording.

Life is messy!

Every day, in large ways and small, we have to decide if we are going to avoid the mess

Or

Immerse ourselves in the mess and do something about it.

This Christmas

Let's be honest...things are a mess!
What makes Christmas brilliant and humbling, comforting and hopeful
is

Jesus

The Son of God, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the God-man of
endless
Love and infinite grace - chose to put himself in the middle of our mess.

Every year, and every day. He doesn't have to, but he chose to, in order to prove the
Father's love for us.

(Dynamic Catholic Team)

So even though we recognize the messiness of life during this pandemic, we can count on Jesus to be there with us, side by side.

"COVID Cancelled" has drastically changed a lot of our regular routines, meetings, conferences, and the like, even our church services. We can almost identify with the C and E people (Christmas and Easter). Hopefully, we will be back to Eucharist and the Sacraments. But I think we have a lot of work ahead of us to bring back those who have been away for ten months. We must show the way and invite them, (especially family). A positive way to do that is by becoming E and C Catholics...Eucharist and Confession, so we have the spiritual strength and courage to evangelize.

My prayer is that we Cursillistas may embody the Incarnation so well that we will attract people back to Jesus, to their faith and prayer life. May we continue to be His instruments throughout the New Year. You are all in my prayers, thoughts, Masses throughout the whole Christmas Season.

Fr Jim



Lay Director

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

Advent: A time to prepare. Prepare what? For What?

Well, we have to clean and de-clutter the interior of the house to make way for all the wonderful decorations: the nativity, the angels, the shepherds. And of course, the magic of the Christmas tree (or trees) with all the presents underneath.

Then there is the exterior of the house to be adorned with many light strands. Some all white, some multi-color. Some flashing and changing colors. So many decisions to make!! And don't forget the wreath. And the blow up Frosty to greet your visitors, always waving "HI!!"

Then there is all the food to prepare to make sure we have enough and all the "right" foods.

I could go on and on (and you can if you so desire) but this is wearing me out!

How many of us actually take the time to prepare our hearts for Christ?

Stop, Drop and Roll!! OR Pray, Hope and Don't worry.

Stop running to and from everything, you are creating a lot of extra anxiety. Pray! Give everything to God!

Drop what you are doing NOW! Remember that in God we trust. Put your hope in HIM.

Roll to put out those anxious fears! Don't worry about them. Some things are just out of your control - but not God's.

So, this year, I would recommend to you, my friends, to take an extra 5 minutes a day to just sit with our brother Jesus. Giving Him all our fears, all our troubles, anything that is bothering us. Give it all to Him! And then rest on His lap. Put your head on His chest and breathe. He is waiting for you!

It will be a Most Wonderful Christmas for YOU!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to all!!

John Lyons

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

John Lyons
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Pre-Cursillo

Happy Advent to everyone! Where has this year gone? Even in the midst of a pandemic, it has gone fast. Here is praying that the new year brings better days.

When I go to see Dad (Deacon Floyd), our visits consist of me reading his mail to him, and then visiting. He told me that recently someone he knew had called to talk with him. During the conversation, this person mentioned that they were going to send a card but hesitated to do so since he doesn't see well anymore. He assured them that he enjoys getting cards, and that one of the family will read it to him. This made me start thinking: how many of our elderly family and friends would love to receive a card or a phone call, especially during this time of the year? Receiving cards and phone calls makes Dad's day. He enjoys talking with people, and even if he can't see the cards, he enjoys hearing from others, especially when it is an 'I was thinking of you today', or 'The Lord put you on my heart today, so am sending this card (or making this phone call)'. During Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, we reach out to family and

friends. What if we also reached out to someone who is in an assisted living facility or nursing home, especially this year when visiting them is limited due to COVID 19? This is Palanca. Who do you know that would be thrilled to hear from you this Christmas season?

I hope that all of you have a very Merry Christmas!

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

School of Leaders...

If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6: 14-15)

These verses have always been a little disconcerting to me. I think I understand the plain message of the words, but does Christ really understand what He is asking me to do? I wonder if He knows about some of the things, I still vividly remember that others have done to me through the years. Is He asking me to forgive them or just be "out of luck" to receive His forgiveness for my wrongdoings?

I imagine proposing a simple solution; why doesn't God just forgive everyone (including me) as I believe He did through His Son on the cross, and just be done with it? Why does He ask me to forgive them as well?

Then I begin to look inside a little deeper and I can't help but wonder sometimes if I do not have trouble forgiving others because I don't want to forgive myself for the wrongs I've done. What about you? I mean, it seems as though sometimes the baggage we carry is not really anything we want to carry around, but we do it anyway. Either we enjoy the misery and want the self-imposed pity parties we are throwing to continue, or (more likely) we simply cannot forgive ourselves for all the times we have fallen short. So, we turn around and do not forgive others. Our hearts begin to harden not only toward others, but toward ourselves. God's plan of forgiveness provides total freedom for us from guilt over what we have done and from the bitterness towards others for what they have done to us. The ability to forgive is a reflection of a repentant, spiritually reborn heart. That repentance begins one on one with God. How willing are you to forgive yourself? How willing are you to forgive others?

There will be NO SCHOOL OF LEADERS in December.

Our next School of Leaders meeting will be Jan 16, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M. (via zoom)

Be a light in someone else's darkness! (that is a gift that needs no gift wrap)
As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us bring his gifts of love and hope to those most in need.

Have a Blessed and Happy Christmas. Stay well and God bless!

John & Karen Bonen, rectors.

Fourth Day

Hello and De Colores' Friends!

As we enter the season of hope in the coming of the infant Jesus, I cannot help but think God's hand in the timing of everything is so apparent! It's up to us to have our hearts and minds open to seeing it....

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she was to conceive God's son, Mary said "I am the handmaiden of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1; 38) Can you imagine how Mary must have felt... Am I truly worthy to carry this child? Honored that God had chosen her but also fear for what was to come. She was not married, so would Joseph reject her? Would she be stoned? Talk about a leap of faith!

Joseph must have been furious finding out Mary was pregnant! He had trusted this woman and she humiliated him. He loved her, but shouldn't she be stoned for her infidelity? He thought his life was planned out and now this... the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said "Joseph ... do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus..." This had to have scared Joseph ... Is he kidding me? I can barely support myself and Mary, how can I also support this child? Am I worthy to raise and care for this child of God?

The journey to Bethlehem had to have been scary and very trying for both Mary and Joseph. Keeping the Mother of God's child safe and warm and away from all harm, sickness, and thieves. Having morning sickness, taking a long trip walking or riding on a donkey ... being newlywed and just getting to really know this person. Far from family and the homes they'd both known all their lives. Through this whole journey, what had to have held them together, was their faith in God. God's guidance and strength, individually and growing them together giving them the perseverance to follow His will for them.

The shepherds came, having been guided by the word from angels "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, good will to all men". (Luke 2;14) The magi followed the star to where it rested over the manger where the infant Jesus lay. (Mt 2; 1-11) The hope and love given to them through the birth of Jesus had to have been overwhelming! And beautiful beyond words!

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your Son! Thank, You for Your guidance and strength in our everyday journey's giving us the perseverance to fight for all that is good in this world! As we continue to journey on our 4th day, praying our hearts and minds are open to all around us needing to know they are not alone in their struggles and to bringing them His light, love, and hope.

May the birth of the Christ Child fill you May the birth of the Christ Child fill you and your families with His love, light and hope this season and all the seasons to come!

The Reinhart's and The Welch's

The Post Cursillo Team;

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



Prayervine:

Sister - rare neurological disease, friend - cancer surgery, friend - brain cancer, Don - COVID & on a ventilator, 9 year old - COVID symptoms, a special intention, those searching for work, Mike Wise - chemotherapy, Pat Miller - leg injury, Clancy Fisher - heart attack, person neglected at a nursing home, Tammy, her mother & father - COVID, Rita Maag - passed away, Gary - COVID & pneumonia, Heidi - COVID, Sr. Deb - flying home to Dayton & for her health, for all healthcare workers, especially nurses caring for COVID patients. Gus Miller needs prayers

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.



Ultreya

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

Palanca

Hello fellow Cursillistas,

In the Christian tradition of Advent, we take time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. We take this time, with family and friends, to spend in prayer, fasting and doing good works ("little lent") in the spirit of hope, love, joy and peace. As we come together to celebrate this season, let us also give thanks for knowing and believing that Jesus is our Savior and will come again.

There is only one Cursillo set for December 2020 thus far. Pray for their success and an increase in future gatherings.

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
12/3/2020	12/6/2020	Women's 109 (English)	Springfield - Cape Girardeau, MO

I like the sayings inside greeting cards- they are worded with creativity that I don't have so I found one I wanted to share.

*May the Christ Child bless you with peace from above and His gentle Mother surround you with her love.
Merry Christmas,*

Jan Stainbrook

'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.

