



# 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, 2021

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

Spiritual Advisor	Page 1
Lay Director	Page 2
Pre-Cursillo	Page 3
Cursillo	Page 4
School of Leaders	Page 4
Fourth Day	Page 5
Prayer Vine	Page 6
Palanca	Page 7
Secretariat Openings	Page 8

## Spiritual Advisor

(Each month, a Spiritual Advisor will write an article)  
"A Time Will Come For Singing" - Dan Schutte

A time will come for singing  
When all your tears are shed  
When sorrows chains are broken  
And broken hearts will mend  
The deaf will hear your singing  
When silent tongues are freed  
The lame will join your dancing  
When blind eyes learn to see

A time will come for singing  
When trees will raise their boughs  
When men lay down their armor  
And hammer their swords into plows  
When beggars live as princes  
And orphans find their homes  
When prison cells are emptied  
And hatred has grown old

A time will come for singing  
A hymn by hearts foretold  
That kings have sought for ages  
And treasured more than gold  
Its lyrics turn to silver  
When sung in harmony  
The Lord of Love  
Will teach us to sing its melody

Listen to it here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0gDMIUKG>

To My Sisters and Brothers who wait in joyful hope:

Advent is my favorite liturgical season. For me, the time of year, the lengthening of darkness, the coming winter, the year drawing to a close all combine to make me more reflective. 2021 has been only slightly brighter than 2020, with COVID still with us, loss and death still haunting us, hatred and violence still rampant, injustice, prejudice and persecution still driving too many human behaviors.

## Upcoming 2022 Cursillo Weekends

Men's March 10-13  
Women's April 7-10

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

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

Advent appears as four weeks of gentle beckoning toward the Light which (Who) never tires of offering us hope. Advent resounds with the Incarnation and reflects the Incarnation even before the official arrival of Christmas; not because of shoppers, parades and festivities filling up our December calendar, but because when we call out, "Come, Lord Jesus" he comes NOW to renew us, comfort us, heal us and guide us toward the Light and Love we long for.

Dan Schutte's hymn articulates my own longing for a better time, when the prophecies of Isaiah come true again, hopefully in our lifetime. Advent invites us to dream of such a time, because if we can't imagine it, we can't really hope for it or work toward it. I like to think of Advent as the season of communal longing for a better world.

So light a candle; sit in quiet prayer; open to the saving influx of grace and peace until your heart begins to sing. Then ask the Messiah to lead you to whomever, wherever your particular talents and personality will make a difference in the life of someone struggling in the darkness. Each of us without exception is needed in this vast ocean of humanity. The song we sing is the Gospel: the Good News of Jesus, the promise and fulfillment of Light and Love, peace, goodness, joy and unending hope. Keep singing and sharing (as we did at our November Focus Day); and that will lead to a Christmas beyond our expectations!



*Feliz Navidad! Sr. Edna Michel*

## **Lay Director**

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

You better watch out! You better not cry! You better not pout. I'm telling you why! Why? Baby Jesus is coming to town.

An old song but with some new words; a new twist. And so... is this a new season, or the same old one, just going through the motions? Or with a new twist, a new outlook?

A lot of us, probably all of us, have had a lot thrown on our plate this year. Experiences that we never saw coming!! Good or not so good. Some of it we wish we never had to go through. And some were good surprises. But you know, God does not give us more than we can handle, even though we think it is too

much. God never said life would be easy. Just that He would always, yes ALWAYS be right beside us. Hard to see and feel when we are in the middle of it!!

And now we are starting the season of Advent. The time to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the coming of our Lord Jesus. We light candles to remind us of the 4 virtues: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

I'm trying something different this year to help me prepare for Jesus' coming. I'm reading more, turning off the TV more. Trying to look inside and listen to what God has to offer to me. Some quiet time just to be. When I was younger, I didn't have time to sit still. I had things I HAD to do. But now I find it is more important to not do a lot of things. And in this world that is hard to do. Not long ago I heard "You have 2 ears and 1 mouth." God gave us those so we can listen twice as much as we talk. And isn't it a fact that many people today need someone who will just sit and listen to them? I'm thinking of those who are staying in and away from other people. Not easy to do some days.

Advent, a period of preparation. Time to get ourselves ready. Because.. Jesus Christ is coming to town! He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good. So be good for your own sake!!

Let us prepare ourselves as best we can in these short 4 weeks knowing that if we do take the time to invest in our future, God will gladly fill us with His Love, His Joy, His Peace and most certainly His Hope.

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to help you not hurt you. To Give you Hope and a future!" Jeremiah 29:11

As we prepare let us.... prepare ye the way of the Lord. Prepare ye the way of the Lord!!

May God fill you with every grace and blessing this season!

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)



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## Pre-Cursillo

Happy Advent to everyone! As we enter this season of preparation for Christmas, our focus becomes waiting and watching, preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. What a blessed time it will be

during these next four weeks. Take some time every day to pray and reflect on the meaning of Advent, as well as Christmas.

I am happy to announce that Gary and Helen Keel have agreed to become the new Pre-Cursillo Chairpersons. Please welcome them. Watch the January ARK for more information on how to contact them.

With Gary and Helen now on board, this will be my last article for the ARK. It has been a pleasure to be on Secretariat, and to work with all of you as you sponsor candidates for our weekends. It has also been a pleasure to make contact with the candidates, and then to be able to put a face to the name at the weekends. I know that Gary and Helen will do a great job as the Pre-Cursillo chairs.

Thank you for all you have given me over the last three years. Getting to know you as sponsors, as well as the candidates, has been a gift.

May each of you have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

MaryAnn Hohman

Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

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



## **Cursillo**

No news to report at this time. Merry Christmas, Friends in Christ!!

Love and Prayers!

The Huffman's

## **School of Leaders**

Brother and Sisters In Christ,

We are now in the season of Advent. What a joyous season it is! We are anticipating the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. We give thanks to our Lord for giving to us the Child Jesus who will wash away our sins.

This is how much our Lord God loves us. Let's all show our love for others by giving to them when they too are in time of need.

Our next School Of Leaders will be on January 15th at 9am at St. Michael Parish, Bright Road, Findlay OH. (*There isn't a School of Leaders in December.*) Scripture reading and reflection will be done by Kathy Otermat. The Spiritual presentation will be done by one of our Spiritual advisors. (TBD) Our lay presentation will be done by John Welch out of Study Of The Charism final chapter XIII. Hope to see you there!

2022 SoL Resources:

Spiritual Advisor Presentations

- An article describing the upcoming world-wide and diocesan synod will be coming soon, either with another mailing to all on the ARK list or to those who receive the Prayer Vine. Watch for it and print it when it arrives. That will be the content for at least January and perhaps February.
- Then we will begin using the book, "From Christendom to Apostolic Mission". It is published by the University of Mary and can be obtained new or used online at various websites. Just "Google" the title. Please order your own copy.

Lay Presentations

- We will begin using the book, "Into His Likeness" by Edward Sri in February. Please order your own copy online.

God Bless,

Rectors: Walter Beckford and Annie Blum



## Fourth Day

Wow another Focus Day for Toledo Cursillo has happened. *Toledo Cursillo the Musical* was a fun music-filled Saturday for all who attended. Do you know how a choir master, music director or liturgist plans the music for a Mass? We do now! How about how to play a song? Make it a reflective piece or a song to send you out of Mass praising and singing? We have a view of how it is done.

On our Cursillo weekends do you know how the songs come about? Of course you do, the troubadours just pick what they like. We all know that! **WRONG! They go through weeks of prep outside of the team formation.** They feel the mood of the team and the theme of the weekend. They take all the

music requests of the professors and planned flow of the weekend. Of course, something happens on the weekend and it moves different then all they had planned and practiced they must change. Sounds easy to me.

How do you plan to reach out to those on the margins or plant seeds to those who don't even see God in their lives? What to sing to bring them in? What to talk about or a song to mix in to drop a few seeds? Seeds that may bloom later. How do you reach those with a closed heart? We learned a lot!

Finally, how do you frost the perfect Fall cookie? Share and enjoy the love of other Cursillistas? That was our Fall Focus Day 2021.

We need to thank in their order of appearance: **Jim Vasko, lovingly supported by his wife Chrissy. Karen Bonen and John Lyons on their great presentations. Thank you, John Bonen and Mary Lyons for lovingly supporting your spouses.**

All those who brought soups, snacks, treats, breakfast and drinks. You all made this day a success! Thank you!

***How about an invite?*** Would you like to help plan the next Summer Focus Day? Create your own team and plan a few more Focus Days? Our team is closing out its term. We need you to take our place. We plan to help you and show you the notes (ropes) we are still thinking musically. Being the Post Cursillo Team, lovingly called the Fourth Day Team, has been rewarding beyond belief. First the rewards you will feel when a weekend or Focus Day comes to a close. A little hint - it is great! Knowing you are making a difference for Cursillo, personally for future and current Cursillistas. Their greatest benefit is the lifelong friends you will make and share love. Send us an email or give us a call we would love to share the blessings we receive. Answer some questions and get you involved.

With Love Your Post Cursillo Team.

Karen Reinhart (kittyrg1967@gmail.com)  
Luanne and John Welch (john4toledo@yahoo.com)



## Prayervine

*Yvonne Soldan - Cat scan, Carolyn Drewior - EKG, daughter-in-law's mother - Covid, Fr. John Lehner - chemotherapy, Carolyn Drewior - kidney stone surgery, friend's mom - Covid, Tim - nasal surgery.*

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



## Palanca Requests

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
12/2/2021	12/5/2021	Men's 410 (English)	Detroit, MI
12/9/2021	12/12/2021	Men's 94 (English)	Rochester, NY
12/9/2021	12/12/2021	Men's 378 (Spanish)	New York, NY
12/9/2021	12/12/2021	Women's 287 (English)	Biloxi, MS
12/9/2021	12/12/2021	Men's 393 (Spanish)	New York, NY

It is another year's end. Where does the time go? These last few years have just slipped away. But instead of looking back, let's look forward. What will next year bring, or even tomorrow? But in all regards, let us give thanks for the time we have – past, present and future. And if things didn't work out yesterday, what can we do to make tomorrow better? Let's ponder (my favorite word for the year) upon that. It's never too late to make changes for the better.

Start small. Wake each day offering it up, in all, asking God for guidance. Spend 5 minutes daily, in quiet, just talking to our Lord. Spend a few minutes in front of the Tabernacle. Gaze upon a crucifix. Say a decade of the rosary for someone in need. Do a good deed. Sing a hymn. Send a card to an infirmed person. Fast one day a week. Make a treat for an elderly neighbor. Pray for your Cursillo brothers and sisters. These are just a few ideas.

Whatever it is that you do, you could change your (or someone else's) future. Now, go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go, make a difference in the world! (gosh, that sounds like a song).

Happiest of Holydays,

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!

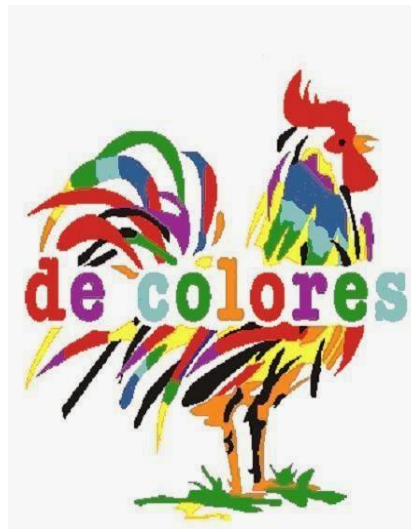
*'What a shame it would be if someone came looking for Christ and only found us! But what a blessing if they came looking for us and found Christ!!'*

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.



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