



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 2026

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

Dear Precious Cursillistas,

May is always very precious. Easter Season, spring, and nature all come together to help us celebrate faith (and hopefully health!) with one another and each other and HOPEfully with a lot of friends. It's all gifts from God and blessings of our faith. There's a National Day of Prayer on May 7th: Mother's Day on May 10th, Ascension on 14th, (anniversary of my ordination to priesthood 17th), Pentecost on 24th, Most Holy Trinity 31st and also the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 31st.

Cursillo is an added gift not everyone gets to share, but one of our blessings is to let the Holy Spirit point out to us some more friends to propose making a Cursillo weekend and introduce us to even more new friends that we can eventually share life in heaven with!

As we make plans, let's be especially open the Holy Spirit. It's somewhat not all that regular and takes extra effort, but our faith leads us, and inspires us, and we find hope and strength in the process that will help many many more people come to a deeper religion and larger Church community to inspire the whole world. Fair enough??? With current politics it will be a GREAT MOVE TO MAKE – to deepen our own faith and wisdom to pray to include it in national and countries worldwide for peace to prevail and CO-operation to survive!

De Colores,

Fr. Skip

LAY DIRECTORS

De Colores Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.” Psalm 107: 1

About (40) years ago, a young priest in the Diocese of Toledo was assigned the parish my family belonged to, St. Mary, Millersville, OH. Little did we know the impact this young priest would have on our small, rural community.



I remember, back then, a lot of the congregation sat towards the back of church. Within the first week or so, this young priest, asked everyone at the beginning of mass to move up closer to the front of church so we would be more of a community, as opposed to individuals gathering for worship. This did, in my youthful eyes, make us feel like more of a community.

I also remember thinking what a beautiful voice this young priest had and how he made me feel like I was important in our small parish. He had a way of making you feel “visible”, not just like another kid (I was around 12 yrs old) at school and in the community.

He had this Spirit about him, like no other priest I can remember. Once I grew older, I was able to understand his Spirit was like one of Christ filled with peace, gentleness, compassion, joy, humility and love. With this beautiful Spirit he brought our parish together and made it feel more like a family to me.

This young priest brought my parents, along with several other couples in the parish to Cursillo, which in turn brought many of us youth to the TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) program. With people getting involved in these programs, our parish became on fire with the Holy Spirit and love for Christ! This young priest was and still is a God given blessing to all who have the honor to call him a friend or their pastor!!

It warms my heart and brings tears of joy to my eyes to celebrate Fr. Ed or Skip Littlemann, who has been a pivotal part of the flourishing of Cursillo in our Toledo Diocese. Fr. Skip was ordained in May 1969 and made Cursillo #16 just a month or so later.

He served as assistant spiritual director with (2) other priests on a men’s weekend in October 1970 and has been serving as a spiritual director ever since. In 1974 or 1975 Fr. Skip became an assistant spiritual director for the Diocese of Toledo Cursillo movement, with Fr. Charlie Ritter. In 1987, when Fr. Charlie stepped down, he became the head spiritual director.

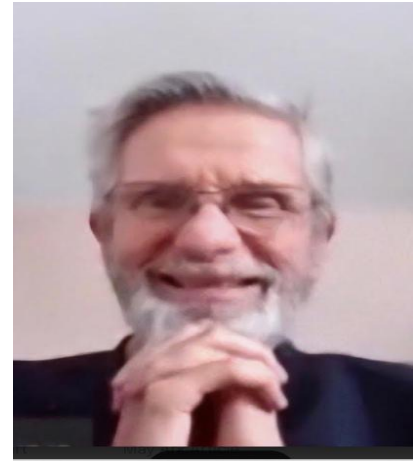
In 1988 he asked Sr. Edna Michel and Fr. Jim Brown to join with him as a team of spiritual directors for our movement. This dynamic trio also served as spiritual directors for region (5). We’re not sure how many years they served, but this included parts of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. This does not include all the Cursillo teams Fr. Skip, Sr. Edna and Fr. Jim have worked as spiritual directors.

Please join me in thanking Sr. Edna and Fr. Jim for their (38) years of service as spiritual directors for the diocese of Toledo Cursillo movement. We are so very blessed!!!

Also, join me in thanking Fr. Skip for his (50) years of service to the Diocese of Toledo Cursillo movement. God is so good!!

I am forever grateful to God for bringing Fr. Skip to our small parish at St. Mary Millersville! I'm certain many of you would say the same, as he served at many parishes over the years. And I am thankful for the wonderful changes he brought to our lives through his spirit and love for Christ.

Fr. Skip, thank you for your love, spirit, inspiration, joy, and service and for being Christ to us all! We love you and you are forever in our hearts!



Blessings,

Karen Fritsch kittyrg1967@gmail.com

Troy Peebles tpeebles1007@gmail.com

De
Colores!!!



Team formation is in full swing now. The upcoming Summer weekends are: Men's June 4th-7th and Women's June 18th-21st. As of now I have 3 applications and 1 possible for the men's and 6 applications for the women's weekends. COME ON ALL (ESPECIALLY THE MEN)! Get those applications in!

Candidate and Sponsors applications can be found on the www.Cursillo419.org web site then under The ARK & Forms tab.

Pat Montgomery Pre-Cursillo
patmontgomery411@gmail.com
 155 E. Keegan St.
 Deerfield, MI 49238



DeColores Everyone!

First, I apologize for missing last month's Cursillo article in the ark. I did indeed write something, but sent it in the wrong format and Judy never found it in time. As the younger generation says 'My bad'.

I hope you are all appreciating the warmer weather *which took forever to arrive in my opinion*. Monica and I can't complain as we took a few weeks to visit her sister who recently moved to Florida. We also visited our hideaway in Crystal River.

I mention our trip because it was very relaxing and quite meditative after Monica's sister realized that she wasn't responsible for entertaining us. As it turns out, our God and his creation provided us with a lot of beauty, sunshine and adventures.

It's funny for me to think about how much life has changed for us before and during our time together. Vacations used to be hectic, trying to fill each day with things and adventures. Today we prefer to slow down and watch a tortoise sprint into the cover of bushes and trees off the beaten path. *Not much chance that your going to miss him fleeing for his life*. I say all this to remind myself and others that God is always putting blessings in our lives. Maybe it's a tortoise, new birds, a manatee, or a special time with someone you love. My prayer is that we all enjoy each day.

If you would like to work a Cursillo Team next year (2027) please get your Team Applications to robertdrewior774@gmail.com or dzaborski411@gmail.com. May God Bless You. Have a safe summer.

Mens' Cursillo TEAM # 301

JEFF HAMMER RECTOR

Alan Lortz Assistant Retor

Fr. Jim Brown Spiritual Dir.

DEACON WINTERSTELLER
SPIRITUAL DIR.

Matt Campbell Shepherd Ideals

Mike Cherry Sacristan Piety

JOE COLEMAN DISCCIPLE

Vincent Donnersbach Shepherd
lay Person in Church

Dcn Don Fritsch Disciple

STAN HEITKAMP HEAD DISCIPLE

Mike Keheliec Asst to Head
Shepherd

Mike Klepper Shepherd Study of
Environments

JOHN LYONS TABLE LEADER
ACTION

Troy Peebles Head Shepherd

Bernie Rumschlag Disciple

DAN SHAFERLY DISCIPLE

Bob Swartzmiller Table Leader
Prof. Leaders

Ben Vasko Table Leader Study

JIM VASKO HEAD TROUBADOUR
CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION



4th Day

Living in a world
after the resurrection



Focus Day Workshop
Necessities Essentials Luxuries





So sorry if you missed it...

If you weren't at April's Focus Day Workshop, you missed:

- Insightful presentations
- Engaging discussion
- Games
- Prizes
- 'Make-it & Take-it' activity
- Fun, Food, Fellowship and more!

**Hope to see you for the
Fall Focus Day Retreat!
October 17th, 2026
Details to come!**



Check out the pictures!

Womens Cursillo TEAM # 302

Fr. Tom Extejt Spiritual Advisor	Sister Mary Jo Spiritual Advisor	Mary Lyons Rector
Angie Mehling Assistant Rector	Shirley Fitz Sacristan Action	Karen Fritsch Head Shepherd
Diane Gutachalk/Environments/Shepherd	Marilyn Heitkamp Disciple	Sarah Lau Shepherd Ideals
Debbie Marciniak Piety	Kathy Otermat Christian in Action	Joann Palm Study
Debby Paulson Shepherd	Melody Reinhart Troubadour Laity	Lisa Simmons Shepherd
Marie Stanhope Disciple	Barb Stager Head Disciple	Alicia Swartzmiller Leaders
Jenny Theis Disciple	Judy Tridico Disciple	



Hello all,

School of Leaders will meet May 16, 2026 in the Marian Room at St. Michael's in Findlay. Doors will open at 830 and we will begin at 9am and end at noon.

Scripture and reflection will be presented by Karen Bonen. Fr. Brown will provide a review of "From Christendom to Apostolic Mission" in preparation for the sequel which we will begin in August. Please read the copy of The Visitation which was provided at School of Leaders in preparation for Fr. Brown's presentation. In addition, Judy provided

this article in a mailing in December/January. John Lyons will present Chapters 13 and 14 of "Rediscover Jesus".

Hope to see you all there and as always, feel free to bring a snack to share.

Shirley Fitz and Diane Gutschalk



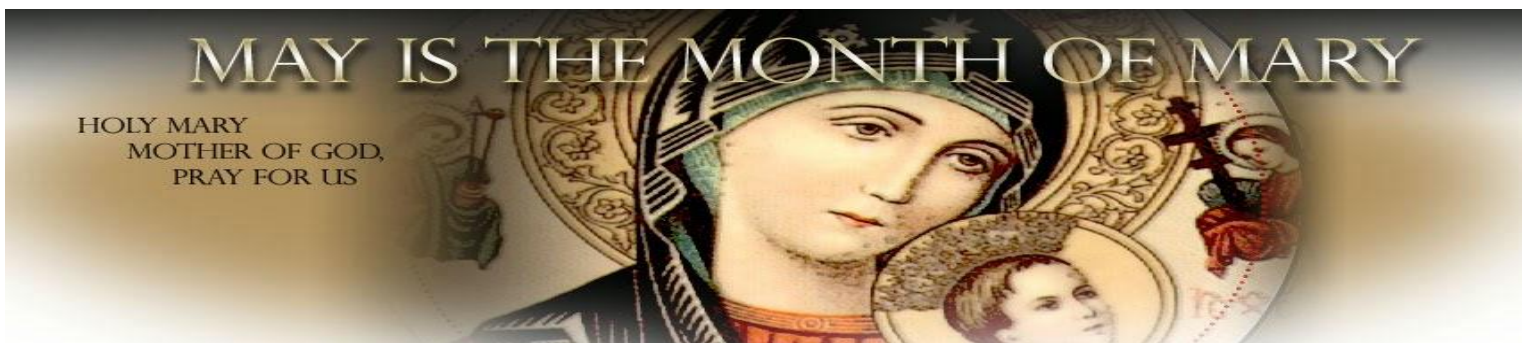
Miguel Hernandez - not eating or drinking, family - for a return to the faith, son-in-law & coworkers - layoff notices, family - recovery from accident, young couple - family pressures, for those struggling with mental health issues, continued prayers for struggling son, nephew - liver problems, Lisa - miscarriage & breast cancer, Vanessa - passed away, Mike Frase-passed away, Pat Miller- ear procedure, Marion Iott-passed away, Fr. Fred Dusch - passed away



Area 2 Ultreyas are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 2 – 3 p.m. Jaeger Hall, St. Clements Church

Area 7 & 10 Tiffin area Ultreya is May 24th, St. Joseph Activity Center, in the Upper Room.

Area 8 will be May 11 at Holy Trinity in Bucyrus from 7:00-9:00.





May brings us into the beauty of spring, a season of growth, renewal, and new life. As flowers bloom and the days grow warmer, we are reminded of how God continues to renew our hearts and strengthen our faith.

In the Cursillo Movement, palanca is one of the greatest gifts we can offer—our prayers, sacrifices, acts of kindness, and encouragement for others. These simple offerings become powerful tools of grace, helping to lift one another closer to Christ.

As we move through this month of May, let us especially remember the teams and candidates preparing for the upcoming June Weekends at Maria Stein. The men’s team continues preparations for their June 4–7 weekend, and the women’s team has begun meetings for their June 18–21 weekend. Please keep all team members and future candidates in your daily prayers.

May is also the month of Mary. Let us look to our Blessed Mother as an example of humble service and faithful love. Through her intercession, may we say “yes” to God each day and joyfully serve others.

Thank you for every prayer, sacrifice, note of encouragement, and act of love you offer. Your palanca makes a difference more than you may ever know.

De Colores!
Alicia & Bob Swartzmiller

5/7/2026	5/10/2026	Men's 1084 (English/Filipino)	Los Angeles, CA	gvfernandocpa2003@gmail.com
5/7/2026	5/10/2026	Men's 111 (Spanish)	Managua, Nicaragua, Central America	mariofalla@gmail.com
5/7/2026	5/10/2026	Men's 123 (English)	Tahi, Hungary	kondasjudit79@gmail.com
5/7/2026	5/10/2026	Men's 298 (Spanish)	San Juan, Argentina	ciolquin@gmail.com
5/7/2026	5/10/2026	Men's 22 (Spanish)	Lafayette, IN	palancaindy@gmail.com
5/14/2026	5/17/2026	Men's 172 (Spanish)	Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz, Argentina	mcc.santafe@gmail.com
5/14/2026	5/17/2026	Women's 93 (English)	Rochester, NY	RochesterWomensWeekendPalanca@gmail.com
5/14/2026	5/17/2026	Men's Prison Cursillo (English)	Boston, MA	bethanyosfop@aol.com
5/14/2026	5/17/2026	Men's 321 (Spanish)	Laredo, TX	xocaquilar01@gmail.com
5/14/2026	5/17/2026	Men's 741 (Vietnamese)	Orange, CA	natpham10@gmail.com
5/14/2026	5/17/2026	Women's 22 (Spanish)	Lafayette, IN	palancaindy@gmail.com

5/21/2026	5/24/2026	Men's 77 (English)	St. John, New Brunswick, Canada	eddie.quann55@gmail.com
5/21/2026	5/24/2026	Women's 26 (Spanish)	Washington DC	precursillowashingtondc@gmail.com
5/21/2026	5/24/2026	Men's 96 (English)	Cape Breton, Canada	cbcursillo@gmail.com
5/21/2026	5/24/2026	Women's 742 (Vietnamese)	Orange, CA	natpham10@gmail.com
5/21/2026	5/24/2026	Men's 252 (Spanish)	San Diego, CA	cursillos239@gmail.com
5/22/2026	5/24/2026	Men's 89 (Portuguese)	Santa Maria-RS, Brazil	alavancas.mccsm@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 170 (Spanish)	Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz, Argentina	mcc.santafe@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Men's 233 (English)	Cincinnati, OH	wsallen4444@yahoo.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Men's 694 (Spanish)	Galveston-Houston, TX	palancahouston@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 77 (English)	St. John, New Brunswick, Canada	eddie.quann55@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Men's 743 (Filipino)	Orange, CA	gwillena697379@yahoo.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 318 (Spanish)	Oakland, CA	letycaldera1226@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 135 (Hungarian)	Szombathely, Zalaegerszeg, Hungary	sztmarton.titkarsag@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Men's 68 (Spanish)	Paraguay, South America	realcastorina@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 268 (Spanish)	Sacramento, CA	mccsacramento@outlook.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 492 (Spanish)	León (Centro Silao), Mexico	mcc.c.silao@gmail.com
5/28/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 388 (Spanish)	Bronx, NY	yolieagle2006@yahoo.com
5/29/2026	5/31/2026	Women's 89 (Portuguese)	Santa Maria-RS, Brazil	alavancas.mccsm@gm



Witness: *Let us know how God is working in your life email to – judbrick616@gmail.com*

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

Current openings on Secretariat

Cursillo and Communications



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 Read about Cursillo news, palanca requests from around the world, or read the national newsletter.

TOLEDO CURSILLO WEBSITE: www.cursillo419.org Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.

