



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.

November 2023

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Our Spiritual Advisor

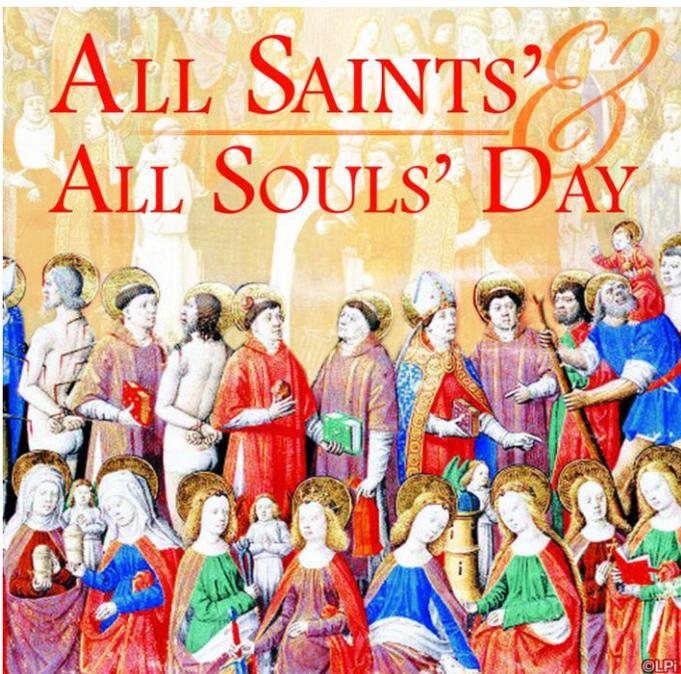
We begin a great month of celebrating the Lord's gifts to us and sharing our faith to grow ourselves better and help our families and friends and workmates also grow themselves. We start with the celebration of All Saints and can share the precious stories of our favorite saints like our first name and Confirmation choice and the happenings and occasions in our lives that have brought a saint or several into our ways of life.

I may have shared this before, but I love sharing the story of my connection with St. Anthony the Patron of lost articles. I've needed him quite a few times in my life and learned the value of the friendship with him from my dad with whom I worked a lot in the summers of my youth. My dad was a marble contractor – installing

marble sills for windows, and hearths and mantels for fireplaces in homes AND altars and communion rails in quite a few churches around Toledo (including Michigan) and other places in Ohio. Dad

shared with me that St. Anthony is a great help in finding things that get lost. The older I'm getting, the more I need to pray to St. Anthony, and it is absolutely amazing how often that prayer works! My sense is that it's working 100% right now. I catch myself chuckling and smiling and thanking God for faith!!!

My first name is Edward, middle is John, and I chose Joseph as my Confirmation Saint because I had a brother born right after me whom my parents named Joseph and he died of leukemia while still very young. I wanted to honor him (and them) by choosing Joseph as my Confirmation name and I'm still very happy with that move because I see St. Joseph, spouse of Mary the Mother of Jesus as a tremendous helper to make "family" so important a part of our human condition designed by God to save the world...



This is pretty long already, and I've only mentioned two of my favorite saints. All Souls' Day and Thanksgiving are important too – to remember those who have already died and are very hopefully in heaven as we pray for them (part of our LARGE family, right?); and the holiday of Thanksgiving celebrates the first coming together of pilgrims and native Americans in the New World in 1621. That's a good sign of our ancestors praising God and forming a nation doing it! Faith is a bedrock to keep building on, eh? Have a great November and share **your** stories.....!



Fr Skip (story behind this too)

Lay Director

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

Fall is finally here! The skies are grey, the wind is chilly, and we're starting to think about what coat is needed today, light or heavy?? Our reluctance to rejoice in the changes in temperature is tempered by the beautiful leaves both on the trees and falling to the ground like gentle rain. November, for our diocese, also indicates that the next Cursillos will be held in 2024. (Those dates are March 7-10 (Men's), April 11-14 (Women's), September 12-15 (Men's) and October 17-20 (Women's). What have we learned in 2023? How have we grown?



I have continued to learn that this movement is so precious to me with its mighty weekends and grouping/Ultreya methods to keep us connected to Our Lord and each other is a powerful force for good. How are grouping and Ultreyas calling me to a deeper relationship with Jesus, and transforming my environments to be more Christ-like?

For some of us for whom Cursillo has been a part of our lives for years, it can be easy sometimes to gloss over what the service sheet mentions. For Piety, it's not supposed to be a laundry list to share what I've done this past week (4 morning offerings, 7 rosaries, 1 visit to the Blessed Sacrament, etc.), but opportunities to share with those in our group about how one or more of those acts brought me closer to God. (For example, while visiting the Blessed Sacrament, I felt God encouraging me to ask a particular person to be a sponsor for

someone who I hope will attend a Cursillo next year. (And then the person I asked agreed to be the sponsor!!)

With Study, a suggestion would be to share something that you read or heard or observed that stretched or enlightened what you know of God. For me, I attend an Adult Faith Formation class on Sundays after Mass. We are currently studying the book of Mark using a video series. The presenter explained how Jesus as our King isn't like the kings of Israel's past. I knew that in 1 Samuel 8, the Israelites asked for a king, and Samuel explained how a king would reign over them, taking their sons and daughters and crops and how they would be the king's slaves. The Israelites still wanted a king, so Saul was anointed king. Jesus is not a king like that. He instead gives himself to us as a gift. Wow! Of course, I know that Jesus is our king, but didn't really understand how He transformed the title of King. Old Testament kings take; Jesus gives. What a lesson!



The third leg of the stool, Action, calls us to look at our environments closely, putting on the mind of God. What am I doing in my family, workplace, parish, everywhere I go to make those environments more Christ-like? What is going well? What struggles in an environment do I have right now that I need some extra prayer and support?

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us. I am so thankful for the Cursillo movement. What can we do to help this movement to grow, to continue to be a method for positive change? Being on a team is a powerful way to do that. Pray about filling out a team application and sending it to our Cursillo chairpersons, being an agent for change to help others to love God and neighbors more fully, more enthusiastically, more unselfishly.

De Colores!

Kathy Otermat

John Lyons



Pre-Cursillo

We are reorganizing the files in preparation for the Spring 2024 weekends and looking forward to receiving applications.

Now's the time for all to renew contacts with potential candidates you have had that were not able to attend in the past and plant the seeds for the spring weekends.

The Men's weekend is March 7 thru 10, 2024 and the Women's is April 11 thru 14, 2024.

And as always: now's the time to Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ.

Gary & Helen Keel

hkeel@buckeye-express.com

419-476-9347



Cursillo

Hi I am Bob Drewior Cochair with Dave Zaborski. It was a honor for me to serve dinner to the Women's Cursillo Team at the Cursillo Closing. The Cursillo Closing was well attended. And thank you to Fr.Chris for the awesome witness. Don't forget about Focus Day on November 18 for Teams 291 & 292.

If you would like to be on a Cursillo Team in the Spring or Fall

please email your Application to Bob [Drewior-
robertdrewior774@gmail.com](mailto:robertdrewior774@gmail.com) or Dave [Zaborski-
Thezaborskifamily@hotmail.com](mailto:Thezaborskifamily@hotmail.com)

Thezaborskifamily@hotmail.com

God Bless DeColores

Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

2024 Cursillo Weekends

Spring Men ----- March 7- 10
Women---- April 11 -14

Fall Men ----- Sept. 12 - 15
Women ---Oct. 17 - 20

School of Leaders :

Friends In Christ, as we enter the month of November, we think of all the Saints as well as the loved ones who have passed before us.

We look forward to the holidays beginning with Thanksgiving. We will be entering the season of Advent soon. Let's all give thanks to our Lord in all things.



We have no School Of Leaders in November. Lifting all of our brothers and sisters in Christ up in prayer.

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com
Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Prayervine *Prayer request for this month*



Patti Kreilick - stroke, Tom Cousino - passed away, Jan and Kim - health concerns, Janet - cancer surgery, John - needs repair help, Abe Ledesma - health concerns, Dudley - emergency surgery, good friend - good result from biopsy, Abe Ledesma - in hospital with pneumonia, for all those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses. Mark Blum-hand surgery.

Fourth Day

Greetings to all.

What a glorious fall season! Women's Cursillo 292 was an uplifting experience for all. Thank you to all who attended the Holy Hour and Closing. What a great way to welcome the new Cursillistas into the family. A special thank you to all the witnesses, Deacon, Priest, and musicians who helped with the celebration. A reminder to all sponsors and new Cursillistas to attend Ultreyas and group with those in your areas. This is the best way to keep the Spirit alive and growing within you. Prayers and Blessings to all of you! Becky Smeltz, Bill and Betty Obringer

4th Day
Living in a world
after the resurrection



Next area 7 and 10 Ultreya is Nov. 26 at Tiffin St. Joseph Activity Center in the Upper Room at 7pm.

Area 8 Ultreya is Monday, November 13 @ St. Joseph, Galion in the activity Center 7-9.

All are welcome



Please pray, fast, say rosaries, do “palanca” etc. for the Cursillistas and teams as they ready for their events.

November is called the “month of remembrance” because traditionally we, as Catholics, remember all those who have died and commemorate them on All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Then we go further into the month as we end our liturgical year and begin the season of Advent. We take this time to think of the end of life and the great hope of God’s heavenly kingdom to come.

But let us not forget the lives that are present today as we pray for our brothers and sisters who will be sharing in Cursillos this month from around the world. There are 27 listed thus far for November. Let us “remember” them in our prayers and offer palanca up for them all. And a Happy Thanksgiving to you all- I am thankful for our God who loves us.

Many Blessings. Jan Stainbrook, Palanca

Witness : share how God is working in your life = email to = judbrick616@gmail.com

Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings

Facilities

Please reflect on this opening 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.

