



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.

September 2025

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

Spiritual Advisor	Page 1
Lay Director	Page 2
Pre-Cursillo	Page 3
Cursillo	Page 4
Fourth Day	Page 4
School of Leaders	Page 5
Prayervine	Page 5
Ultreyas	Page 5
Palanca	Page 6
Witness	Page 8
Secretariate Openings	Page 8

Spiritual Advisor

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I have had a very Spirit filled summer. I spent a week at the Franciscan University **Priest, Deacon, Seminarian Retreat** in June. Fr John Reccardo and ACTSXXIX Team were the presenters of a very powerful theme: "Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening" The week revolved around four basic questions to ponder and soulfully consider. – Father God, by what name do you call me? Do you know me? - Jesus, lovingly reveals the one thing that keeps me from wholeheartedly following you. – Lord, expose for me, the enemy's primary strategy to wreck my life. And, – Lord Jesus, make known to me the most important thing to focus on RIGHT NOW.

The week was about how to rediscover the true Mission that Jesus entrusted to us in this changing culture, moving from "maintenance to Mission" from Christendom to Christianity and being equipped for mission and leadership for

the Church and the World today. Our Cursillo Movement is all about doing this transition as well.

My second event was the **Magnificat Conference** in Tampa, Florida for a weekend in July. It was hot, yes but we were inside most of the time, except to go out to warm up from the air-conditioning. This weekend too had some powerful talks about demonstrating and using our Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Magnificat meetings, witnessing our faith and encouraging our mission to bring others (women from families and parishes) together.

Fall 2025

Mens -- September 4-7th

Women's --October 16- 19th

Then during that week I had the privilege of the **Encounter Conference** in downtown Toledo. Some 4,000 people attended the three day event, 200 priests from all over the country and world, religious sisters and seminarians. I met several folks from Australia, Slovakia, Canada, South America, the Caribbean Islands, as well as from all over the USA. Imagine that, right here in Toledo, Ohio. The Holy Spirit was definitely breathing on us.

The Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal offered a Life in the Spirit

Seminar at Maria Stein Retreat Center on the weekend of August 8,9 and 10. We had 35 participants plus the team. There are seven talks given during the weekend with breakout prayer groups following each session. The basic Kerygma is shared (like John Riccardo's Rescue book), God's love; Salvation; New Life in Christ: Receiving God's Gifts; Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; Growth in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; and Transformation of yourself and your environment.

Obviously there are any number of topics that could be shared but the one that came to mind was a common but simple gesture we all do at church and can easily be done in our home. That simple gesture is blessing ourselves with holy water and/or blest salt. This practice goes way back in our Jewish ancestry history with the recitation of the Shema.

Shema: (lit. "hear"); the daily declaration of faith, recited in the morning and evening prayers and before retiring for the night. **"Hear oh Israel you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."** A mezuzah (מְזוּזָה) is a parchment scroll, on which the *Shema* is handwritten. It is mounted on the right side of the doorpost of a Jewish home reminds us of God and our heritage. It also invites God's watchful care over the home. A kosher mezuzah on the doors of a home or office protects the inhabitants — whether they are inside or outside.

When we come into a Catholic church the first thing is to bless ourselves with the holy water, to both remind ourselves of our baptism (that we are recreated by God in his image and likeness and filled with His Holy Spirit) and that by baptism we have a right to be in the church, we belong there. When we leave, besides the celebrant's final blessing, the water can remind us that we are on mission to bring the Good News of Jesus to all we meet in the coming week and to BE a blessing and Eucharist to all we meet.

A holy water font by our door at home can remind us of the same thing. We are blessed and are called to be a blessing to our world by bringing Christ into our daily environments. We can bless ourselves and one another, spouses and children. We can also anoint our senses for the daily mission: our forehead, that our thoughts may be holy; our eyes, that we may see Christ in everyone we meet; our ears, that we may hear and truly listen to one another and for God's voice; our heart that we may experience God's love and share our love for him and others we meet during the day. Our hands that we may do good work and service for others; finally our feet, that we may always walk in the ways of the Lord.

Upon coming home we can repeat this anointing just as a reminder that the Lord was with us all day through and we can be thankful for His guidance.

You can use a little font or just a dish with holy water in it. Also, blessed salt, if you want. There is always holy water available for home use in our churches.

As we use this sacramental, a simple gesture, the mindfulness of God's blessings through the day can make a real difference in our lives and in the lives of all we meet on any given day. After all we are a Sacrament and Eucharist for the world.

God bless you,
Your brother in Christ,
Fr Jim Brown



from our
Community
Lay Director

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward." Colossians 3:23

This verse reminds me of days I was extremely frustrated with my job, the office I worked in, and my fellow co-workers. Being the only Catholic Christian, and possibly the only Christian, and seeing people's attitudes and treatment of fellow employees, it was difficult to stay and not simply walk out and away from that toxic environment. Some days I wondered why I kept going back, other than the need for my paycheck.

My drive home was a peaceful drive through the country, which often helped defuse my emotions and attitude. I always had Christian music playing on the radio, and I tried to get a rosary in either on the way to or on the way home from work. These things also helped me keep believing that God had a plan for me and that I was where I was supposed to be for a reason. It wasn't up to me to question God, but to trust him.

I had to remind myself “who” I was really, ultimately, working for. Yes, I was entering orders, calling drivers, and talking to customers. But as I was doing so, how I did my job and how I treated people who were on the other end of the line or there in the office is what mattered most. I was to be God’s hands and feet, his voice and his Spirit to everyone, wasn’t I? I had to remember I was working for God, not the man whose name was on the sign on the building. My work for the Kingdom was the most important work entrusted to me!

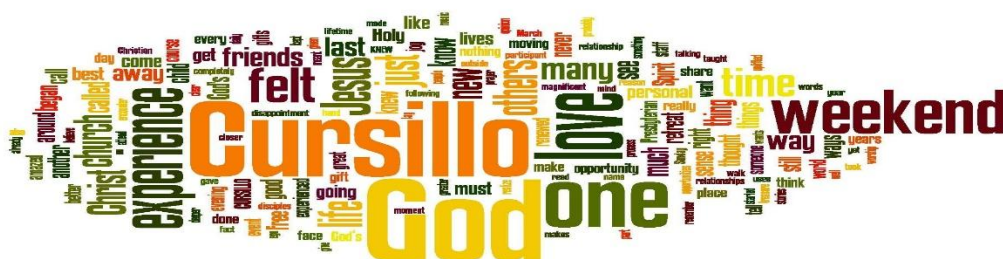
It wasn't easy. But once I started "working heartily for the Lord and not for men" and giving the rest to God, things became much more tolerable. I prayed for my co-workers and the customers daily. I put yellow sticky notes on my computer screen with bible verses to help keep me focused on the most important boss of all, God!

We hope to see you at the Holy Hour for the men's weekend on Saturday, September 6 at 8:00 pm in the Chapel across from the Spirituality Center. It will be followed by the serenade at 9:00 pm.

The Closing for the men's fall Cursillo #299 will be Sunday at 4:30 pm in the Chapel across from the Spirituality Center. Please be there by 4:15 so no one is straggling in as the men are coming to the Chapel.

Blessings,

Troy Peebles tpeebles411@yahoo.com
and Karen Fritsch kittyrg1967@gmail.com



MEN CANDIDATES # 299 September 4 -7

Matthew Campbell St. Joseph Galion	Thomas Chambers St. Joseph Tiffin
Vincent Donnersbach Transfiguration, Upper Sandusky	Eric Holbrook St. Gerard Lima
Aaron Knight St. Mary Millersville/St. Michael Gibsonburg	Chris Lau St. Michael Gibsonburg
Chad Reno St. Mary Millersville	Derrick Rodriguez Immaculate Conception, Deshler
Joseph Walsh St. Joseph, Monroeville	Charles Zoeller St Joseph Tiffin
James Kain Transfiguration of the Lord Upper Sandusky	



Candidate applications should be sent by email to:

Pat Montgomery At patmontgomery411@gmail.com

By mail: Pat Montgomery 155 E. Keegan St. Deerfield, MI 49238
DeColores, Pre-Cursillo Chairperson



**Make a friend.
Be a friend.
Bring a friend
to Christ.**

Cursillo

Welcome to fall weather, If you are interested in working a Cursillo Weekend please get your Team Applications to Dave Zaborski (dzaborski411@gmail.com) or Bob Drewior (robertdrewior774@gmail.com). May God Bless everyone. Pray for Peace.

TEAM #299

Jim Baker Disciple/Security	Zac Baker Sheperd/Piety	John Bonen Table Leader/Study
Tim Distel Asst. Rector	Aaron Everhart Rector	Don Fritsch TL/Study of Enviroments
Steve Grycza Disciple	Dcn Greg Kirk Asst. Spiritual Director	Mike Dlepper Troubador
Allan Lortz TB / Leaders	John Lyons Disciple	Bill Obringer Troubador
Troy Peebles Head Shepherd	Tom Russell Shepherd / Ideal	Dan Shaferly Asst, Head Shepherd / Christianity in Action
Ben Vasko Shepherd / Action	Dave Zaborski / Disciple	

POST CURSILLO Fourth Day/the Rest of your life

September is upon us and so is the Men's weekend of 299. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Holy Hour on Sept. 6th at St. Francis Convent starting at 8:00 pm. Deacon Denny Scherger is presiding and Roger Brickner will be giving the witness. The Closing is on Sunday with Stan Heitkamp giving the witness. Please arrive around 4:00 pm so we are all ready when the team and new Cursillistas arrive. God Bless you and pray for all the men on 299. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather! Becky Smeltz, Bill and Betty Obringer

Toledo Post Cursillo / 4th Day

The next phase, each day building upon the last, going out to to others and to the world. The living out a Christian life in the environment of the real world that Cursillistas encounter everyday. It does not present magic formulas, but offers guidelines and direction for continuing conversion after the weekend.



Greetings friends,

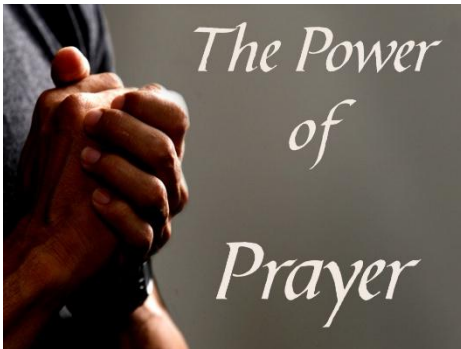
The official start of autumn is almost upon us. As you try to squeeze in those last summer activities, remember to reserve September 20th for School of Leaders. We will meet in the Marian room at St. Michael's Findlay from 9-12.

Kathy Otermat will do the scripture reading and reflection. Fr. Jim will present pages 88-108 of "What Nobody Ever Told Us".

Diane Gutschalk will present Chapters 3 and 4 of Rediscover Jesus.

We look forward to seeing you on the 20th. Bring a snack to share if you wish.

Shirley Fitz



Couple & family - marital issues, Nate - 2 year mission commitment, neighbor with serious cancer, for candidates for the men's fall Cursillo, a son considering Cursillo, son-in-law - fell from ladder & in hospital, neighbor - passed from cancer, mother - heart surgery, retreat at Richland Correctional, young man - torn ACL, Lavonne - stroke and in hospice, coworker's dad - blood clots, candidates & team of Cursillo 299.



Area Ultreya Information

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

Area 7 & 10-- September Ultreya is Sunday Sept. 28 at 7pm in the Upper Room of St. Joseph Activity Center in Tiffin.

Area 8 - Area 8 September Ultreya will be held on September 8, 2025 at Resurrection Parish in Lexington from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. All are welcome!



PALANCA

Dear 4th Day,

As September approaches, we ask you to hold in prayer and offer palanca to all those who will be making their Cursillo weekends around the world. Each of them is preparing for a special encounter with Christ, and your prayers can help open their hearts to the grace and joy He has in store for them.

Let us also pray for the teams who will be serving these weekends, that they may be faithful instruments of God's love.

Thank you for joining us in this beautiful work of palanca and prayer and support for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

De Colores,

Bob & Alicia Swartzmiller

9/3/2025	9/6/2025	Norwich 16 (English)	Norwich, England	norwichcursillo@gmail.com
9/4/2025	9/7/2025	Men's 102 (English)	Evansville, IN	cwilzbacher@gmail.com
9/4/2025	9/7/2025	Men's Cursillo (English)	Monterey, CA	californialeo1@sbcglobal.net
9/4/2025	9/7/2025	Men's 299 (English)	Toledo, Ohio	cursillo419palanca@gmail.com
9/4/2025	9/7/2025	Men's 1240 (Spanish)	Caguas, Puerto Rico	mariascespo1963@gmail.com
9/4/2025	9/7/2025	Men's 576 (Spanish)	Amarillo, TX	mccdamarillo@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Men's Cursillo (English)	Spokane, WA	pharman89@outlook.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's Cursillo (English)	Monterey, CA	californialeo1@sbcglobal.net
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Men's 352 (English)	Oakland, CA	oak.cursillo.palanca@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Men's 2 (Spanish)	Charleston, SC	amarcella1206@yahoo.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Men's 137 (Spanish)	St Augustine, FL	spanishcursillostaugustine@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's 67 (English)	Seattle, WA	aldana.diana@outlook.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's 70 (English)	Tulsa, OK	tulsacursillo@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Woman's Cursillo (Spanish)	Seattle, WA	margarita.e@hotmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's 1074 (Filipino)	Los Angeles, CA	normen0357@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's 77 (Spanish)	Orlando, FL	medinana8@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Men's 436 (English)	San Antonio, TX	palanca.satx@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's 132 (English)	Oklahoma City, OK	re.assistant@stbenedict.us
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's 138 (English)	Joliet IL	pmquilts37@yahoo.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's Cursillo (English)	Gary, IN	breanonbarsic@gmail.com
9/11/2025	9/14/2025	Women's 54 (Spanish)	Cuauhtemoc-Madera, Mexico	lorena_quintanav68@hotmail.com
9/13/2025	9/15/2025	Men's Kewanee Prison 1258 (English)	Peoria, IL	lahoodja@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's Cursillo (English)	Spokane, WA	kathylu519@roadrunner.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 50 (English/Filipino)	San Bernardino, CA	dsbfilipino3day@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 223 (English)	New York, NY	jimsantos0624@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 353 (English)	Oakland, CA	oak.cursillo.palanca@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 228 (Spanish)	Fresno, CA	fresnodecolores@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 57 (English)	Austin, TX	lit200@aol.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 55 (Spanish)	Trenton, NJ	iselafoy@hotmail.com

9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 135 (Spanish)	St Augustine, FL	spanishcursillostaugustine@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 67 (English)	Seattle, WA	iclavijo@live.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 118 (English)	Memphis, TN	palanca@memphiscursillo.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 167 (English)	Phoenix, AZ	communications@lutherancursillo.org
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 23 (Spanish)	Seattle, WA	ioserigoberto.hdz@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 167 (English)	Phoenix, AZ	communications@lutherancursillo.org
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 251 (Spanish)	San Diego, CA	cursillos239@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 158 (Spanish)	Philadelphia, PA	elycontreras0113@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 33 (Spanish)	Jinotega, Nicaragua	marhjenkins@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 94 (English)	Allentown, PA	allentowncursillo@gmail.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 189 (English)	Cincinnati, OH	wsallen4444@yahoo.com
9/18/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 68 (Spanish)	Atlanta, GA	vocalcursillo-atl@outlook.com
9/19/2025	9/21/2025	Women's 472 (French)	Outaouais, Quebec, Canada	palancas.ou@gmail.com
9/19/2025	9/21/2025	Men's 472 (French)	Outaouais, Quebec, Canada	palancas.ou@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Women's 181 (Spanish)	Brownsville, TX	zecaিদajuan@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Women's 2 (Spanish)	Charleston, SC	amarcella1206@yahoo.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 690 (Spanish)	Galveston-Houston, TX	palancahouston@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 121 (English)	Nashville, TN	LKelso@aol.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 149 (English)	Atlanta, GA	atlantapalanca@yahoo.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Women's Cursillo (English)	Crookston, MN	crookstoncursillo@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 110 (Spanish)	Managua, Nicaragua	secretariado.managua@cursillosni.org
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Women's 2 (Spanish)	Charleston, SC	amarcella1206@yahoo.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Women's 1241 (Spanish)	Caguas, Puerto Rico	mariascrespo1963@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 271 (English)	Green Bay, WI	gbmenscursillo@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 77 (Spanish)	Orlando, FL	medinana8@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 108 (Filipino/English)	Oakland, CA	nvamedoff@aol.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 15 (Spanish)	Springfield, MA	maryvazquez42@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 112 (Spanish)	Cleveland, OH	nelson.gec@gmail.com
9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Women's 94 (English)	Allentown, PA	allentowncursillo@gmail.com

9/25/2025	9/28/2025	Women's 61 (Spanish)	Atlanta, GA	vocalcursillo-atl@outlook.com
9/26/2025	9/28/2025	Men's 13 (Vietnamese/English)	Sacramento, CA	tranhana@gmail.com

Witness:

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

Current openings on Secretariat

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



4th Day / POST CURSILLO

Co-School of Leaders

Co- Pre-Cursillo

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.