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Toledo 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.

Application Forms

Cursillo Weekends - 2027

Lial Retreat Center - Whitehouse, OH

Spring
Men's Spring - March 11 - 14
Women's Spring - April 8 - 11

Fall
Men's Fall - September 9 - 12
Women's Fall - October 7 - 10

Spiritual Directors Letter

"Love each other as I have loved you." Jn. 13:34

Love of God cannot exist in a vacuum; it is necessary for it to overflow into how you love oUr brothers and sisters. You cannot love our invisible God in heaven if you ignore the visible suffering neighbor right in front of you.

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True love means to love the other simply as other. It means to love the other solely for their good and welfare.

Sunshine Children's Home, just outside of Maumee, serves the care and housing needs of children with developmental disabilities. They care for those with the most profound handicaps who can do nothing to care for themselves or communicate with others. They rely on others for all things.

The deacons from our parish, and the men that are currently preparing to be deacons, visit the residents there every month for an hour to spend time with them. We pray with them and for them and we give them God's blessing and communicate with them however we can. It is a beautiful, gratifying experience to be with these angels of God for an hour.

The focus of this story though is the nurses, nurses' aides and general care givers who lovingly provide the care for all of these loving people 24 hours a day. They too are angels. They do everything for them. They feed them, they provide their medical care, they talk to them and keep them clean, everything they require; twenty-four hours per day. The residents could not exist without them.

You might think that this is an undesirable job, but I found out that most of them love what they do. When I talked to the care givers, one nurse told me that she had taken another nursing job in a hospital, but she came back to Sunshine Home three months later to be with the residents there. Another nurse told me that this was the best nursing position she had ever had. These care givers demonstrate the love that Jesus lived and taught: to love each other simply for the good of the other.

God commands us to love; to accept and to give only what is good, lovely, just, and pure and to reject whatever is contrary. He puts us first in his thoughts and everything He does flows from his love for us (1 John 3:1, 4:7-8, 16). Do we put him first in our thoughts? God loved us first (1 John 4:19) and our love for him is a response to his over whelming goodness and kindness towards us.

God loves us wholly, completely, and perfectly for our sake - there is no limit, no holding back, no compromising on his part. His love is not subject to changing moods or circumstances. When God gives, he gives generously, abundantly, freely, and without setting conditions to the gift of his love. His love does not waver, but is firm, consistent, and constant. He loves us in our weakness - in our fallen and sinful condition.

That is why the Father sent his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem us from slavery to sin and its disordered cravings, desires, passions, and addictions.
Prayer: Lord you ask us to live with our hearts open to You and our hands open and extended to our love of neighbor, the vulnerable and forgotten. When our love for you grows cold or narrow, warm it by your mercy. When we fail to see You in the poor, the stranger or the lonely, open them wide. Make our lives a living bridge - anchored in Your heart, and reaching out to touch the world.

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Deacon Denny Scherger, Cursillo 115, St. Joseph Parish, Maumee

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Lay Directors Letter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We all think of the same thing when it comes to November. THANKSGIVING!! It's always fun and exciting to gather with family and friends, break bread together and share memories and laughter.

Here are a few reminders of who we need to keep at the center of our celebration;
"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess 5: 16-18

Personally, I struggle with anxiety. This next passage reminds me to give it all to God and keep my focus on Christ.

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:6-7

When I struggle to do or say the right thing, I try to remember how my words and actions will affect others.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Col 3: 17

In times when I feel alone, I remember I have a great God who loves me to no end.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his love endures forever!" Psalm 107: 1

We pray all of you have a wonderful, safe, joyous Thanksgiving! And remember, in all things, give thanks!

DeColores Friends,

Karen Fritsch - kittyrg1967@gmail.com

Troy Peebles - tpeebles1007@gmail.com

Pre-Cursillo

This month's excerpt from The Cursillo Movement's Sponsor's Booklet:
Before we can address the purpose of sponsoring, we must first have a good understanding of the purpose of the Cursillo Movement.

WHAT THE CURSILLO IS NOT:
It is important to note that as we try to understand the purpose of the Cursillo Movement, it is also important that we understand what the Cursillo Movement is NOT. There have been many misconceptions about what the Cursillo Movement is for. There was a dialogue that appeared years ago in one of Spain's newsletters which is a good lead-in to one of the first misconceptions people have had about the Cursillo Movement. The dialogue was as follows: Where do all good people go? They go to Heaven. Where do all bad people go? They go to Hell. Where do all the very, very bad people go? They go to the Cursillo to get zapped. This misconception of what Cursillo is for could be called the "problem case approach." The Cursillo can make Christians out of people no

one else can do anything with. Of course, the only problem is to get them there - and convert them. Other misconceptions over the years have been: Pastors use the Cursillo for recruiting workers for the parish. People had a pre-Vatican II out-look on the Catholic faith; Cursillo could change their view. Get people involved with social action programs – work with the homeless, right to life, etc. Use the Cursillo to produce leaders for other movements / organizations.

The Cursillo Movement is NOT a cure-all for personal problems. There are other programs for, and have staffed professionals to help people with personal problems. The Cursillo Movement is not just anything. It was designed in a certain way for a certain purpose. Before the Cursillo Movement can have a strong sense of direction, and be able to accomplish what it was designed to accomplish, there has to be a clear understanding of the Movement is and what it is for.

All the above is directly from the booklet. Note from me now. Just because it is on the list above doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit can't light a flame in us and accomplish some of the above during and after our weekends. I don't believe that God puts those kinds of limitations on what our weekends can accomplish for and in us.

Next month's excerpt is **WHAT THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT IS**. Start thinking about it and see what you can come up with.

Next year's Springs weekends are:
Men's #303 March 11-14. Application deadline February 24.
Women's #304 is April 8-11. Application deadline March 24.
Next year's Fall weekends are:
Men's #305 September 9-12. Application deadline August 24.
Women's #306 October 7-10.Application deadline September 22.

You have time to start praying for possible candidates for next year's weekends. Time to Make that friend, Be that friend, and Bring that friend to one of the weekends. Please go to www.Cursilo419.org for the most up to date candidate and sponsor applications.

Also we are looking for my replacement as my term ends June of 2027. There are some basic computer skills needed but I can teach those to you if necessary. If you think you might be called to this ministry please pray on it and contact Troy Peebles, Karen Fritsch or myself. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this ministry.

Thank you.

Pat Montgomery Pre-Cursillo
patmontgomery411@gmail.com
155 E. Keegan St.
Deerfield, MI 49238
419-654-3604

We will be in a new home for our weekends in 2027. The Lial Retreat Center in Whitehouse Ohio will welcome us this Spring. A beautiful retreat center. Lial has fewer rooms then we have had in the past. Teams for the next few weekends maybe smaller than in the past. In some cases, we may have to double up on some of duties. We will also be preparing our own food for these weekends.
With that in mind our teams are now forming. You may send in your team applications and they can be found under the Ark and Forms tab of our website. The site may be found at https://cursillo419.org.

Just a reminder our next weekend dates including the start date of team meetings are below:

Men's Spring : March 11 to March 14, 2027. Team meetings begin January 7, 2027.
Women's Spring: April 8 to April 11, 2027. Team meetings begin January 28, 2027

We would love to see you on a team!

De Colores,
Luanne and John Welch
cursillo419@gmail.com
Home phone: (419) 478-3610
Forms may be found at cursillo419.org

Post Cursillo

4th Day
Living in a world
after the resurrection

IF YOU WEREN'T AT
FOCUS DAY...
JUST LOOK WHAT
YOU MISSED!

Area 8 Ultreya
Monday Nov 9, 2026 @ Holy Trinity in Bucyrus
7-9 PM.

CURSILLO
SCHOOL OF LEADERS

Fall greetings to all,
School of Leaders will meet on November 21st at St. Michaels's in Findlay. Doors open at 830 and we will meet from 9-noon. We will meet in the **teacher's lounge**. As you enter and turn right, go through the glass door and take the first left.

Bill Obringer will provide the scripture reading and reflection. Deacon Greg Kirk will present Chapter 4 of "The Religion of the Day" and Wendy Schlimmoeller will present chapters 21, 22 and 23 of "Rediscover Jesus".
Hope to see you all there. Snacks to share are welcome.

As the winter season quickly approaches, we would like to provide how we will decide when SOL is canceled. If Hancock County reaches a Level 2, SOL will be canceled. Since we travel from many other counties, please follow the guidelines for the county in which you live and or the county you may have to travel through to get here. Your safety should be considered first and foremost.

Shirley Fitz   safrnccrn@hotmail.com
Diane Gutschalk   dmbttgrad@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUEST

Friend - mental health issues
Brother - health issues
Kathy - surgery
Friend - special intention
Alan Tussen - needs prayers
Coworker - needs a liver transplant
Austin Sergent - open heart surgery
William Leo Goodnough - passed away
Luke - covered in poison sumac
Jan Stainbrook - heart surgery
Brother - in hospice & prayers for that he opens his heart to God
Joseph Ranker - passed after brief illness
Marissa - in hospital with serious infection
Nancy - thyroid biopsy
Mo Harting - passed away
Jesse Rodriguez - having tests
Rami Martinez - back surgery, dealing with severe pain
Friends - C section
Beverly Harting (wife of Mo Harting who passed away recently) - passed away
Sr. Wanda Smith - cancer.

Happy Fall, Y'all!

As the leaves turn their beautiful autumn colors and prepare to return to the earth, we are reminded that God is always preparing us for new growth.

As we enter this season of harvest, please remember the teams and candidates gathering for Cursillo weekends throughout November. Your prayers, sacrifices, and acts of love—our Palanca—help strengthen and encourage them as they grow closer to Christ.

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving Holiday!
De Colores!
Alicia & Bob Swartzmiller

Link to the National site where palanca requests from around the world can be found.
National Cursillo Website - https://cursillousa.org/palanca-requests

De Colores!
Bob & Alicia Swartzmiller

Witness: Let us know how God is working in your life.
Email to: communications@cursillo419.net

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

Current Openings on Secretariat
-- 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.

If you would like to unsubscribe, please click here.

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