



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.

April 2024

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Our Spiritual Advisor

Ark Spiritual Directors Article

Dear Brother and Sister Cursillistas

We've just finished the tremendously spiritual season of Lent and its preparation for the experience of Holy Week and Easter. There were a lot of gatherings to pull us together to grow in faith and in the friendship of one another. That builds our personal sense of our faith merits and demonstrates how that builds community and a sense of belonging.

Now we have another kind of experience to share when we're often pretty much more alone and have time to relax and remember some of the good times we just shared, to let those effect us in our lives more deeply! All of this is the human way of life with its business and quietness intermixing so we can stay alive and have fun.

My thought for this month's ARK is that we can share with some family and friends. A couple of thoughts that inspire us to share with others, - the faith gifts we experienced, - be good and fun instruments in the hands of The Savior Jesus to give the world. We each have a way to experience friendship in gentle timing and most likely some "surprising" thoughts! TAKE THE TIME TO PONDER EACH QUESTION



Toledo Cursillo Weekends

Spring / 2024

Women -- April 11-14

Fall / 2024

Men - September 12-15

Women - October 17-20

Here are some QUESTIONS TO PONDER so we can share: What Is Your Favorite Part Of Spring?

What Is The Last Thing That Made You Smile? What Is Your Favorite Springtime Sport?

If You Had An Extra Hour In Every Day, How Would You Spend It?

What Do You Value Most In A Friendship?

Got ya all in prayer as we experience this fun time at the same time!!!

I might be on a beach with a beverage in my hands when you read this, 😊

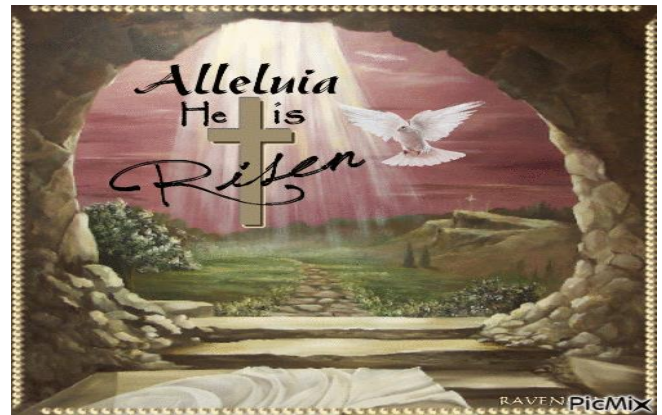
Fr. Skip

Lay Director

Happy Easter!! He Is Risen!!
We pray that your Lenten journey was fruitful. Dying to self in order to rise with Christ this Easter.

Jesus knew very well about dying to himself. How many times in scripture do we read about Jesus doing his Father's will, not his own. I think about this lent and the giving up that I did. No, I didn't give up stuff this year. I gave up my time to help others, especially when I was too busy. I gave up or offered my gifts, my talents to those who needed help, mostly in small ways. And I gave some of my treasure to those that needed it more. And I found that doing these things brought me joy. Not happiness, joy. There is a difference. Even when life throws a lot of muck your way you can still be joyful. Joy comes from knowing that God has all of life in His hands. The good, the bad and the ugly. And you come to know that even with sorrow and pain, there is a rainbow of love at the other end. You come to realize that all of this life's a journey. From the beginning to the end and all the highs and lows in between. Your life, my life is a dash, like on a headstone 1958 - 2075. What we do with our dash is what we will be judged for at the end of time. When you go through the rough and hard times in life, as many of you know, it is the reliance on God that gets you through. Jesus had to die in order to rise from the grave. He had to die so that the Father could send us the Holy Spirit, The Advocate. Jesus knew that we would need help! I certainly can't do it on my own. But with God's help I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Life is so much easier if I would get out of God's way and let Him show me what I need to do, and listen to what He tells me. But I want to be able to control some of my life! 😊 And we all know where that leads us. I can't help but think; where does all of this lead me?

I think it comes back to the stool. Piety, study and action. After all, isn't lent meant to help bring us closer to Christ? How have I been doing this? First putting myself quietly before God and trying to listen to His still, quiet voice. Second, picking up the bible and reading His love letter to me. **Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth.** And as I read trying to pick up on what God wants me to hear. And then third, going out and cheerfully sharing God with others. Nobody likes a grumpy Christian!! For me, it has been a different lent this year, for a variety of reasons. As I finish lent while writing this, I look forward to the beautiful Easter Sunday! And all that it will bring. Celebrating the Lord rising from the grave and



offering us new life! Let us run joyfully Jesus is King! Let us give Him our expectations and see what He does with them. May God bless you abundantly and grant you His peace! May your lives overflow with His joy! And may your stool be solid to hold you in all of your endeavors!

Decolores!

Ultreya!

Your sister and brother in Christ,

John Lyons

Kathy Otermat



Pre-Cursillo

Thanks to all of you who have taken "Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ" to a new level for the upcoming Women's Cursillo #294 (April 11 thru 14) as it has resulted in a fantastic group of 13 candidates.

Candidates

Melody Reinhart – All Saints, New Riegel	Shelly Weichert-St. Joseph Fremont
Barbara Weinandy-All Saints New Riegel	Sue Westrick – St. Joseph, Sylvania
Dani Peebles – Holy Trinity Assumption	Diane Joseph – St. Michael, Findlay
Monica Rancatore – Our Lady of Lourdes, Toledo	Diane Pistilli – St. Joseph, Sylvania
Brenda Barry – St. Joseph, Toledo	Lisa Simmons- St. peters, Mansfield
Gloria Flores – St. Michael, Findlay	Donna Shaferly- All Saints, New Riegel
Lynelle Lortz – Transfiguration of the Lord- Upper Sandusky	

Now is the time to start working on seeing if we can match these results for the Fall Cursillo Weekends.

The Men's will be September 12 thru 15 and the Women's will be October 17 thru 20. Looking forward to receiving Candidate (and Sponsor's) applications from you.

Don't forget that copies of the current application forms are available to download from the Cursillo 419 website.

Gary & Helen Keel
 Pre-Cursillo
 E-mail: hkeel@buckeye-express.com
 Phone: 419-576-9347



Women Team # 294

Sr. Mary Jo Szpila – Sp. Director	Fr. Ron Brickner – Sp. Director	Karen Fritsch-Rector
Jan Stainbrook- Asst. Rector/ Action	Becky Smeltz- Co-Asst. Rector/Environments	Karen Bonen-Troubadour
Joanne Kosta-Troubadour	Mary Lyons-Sacristan -Lay Person in Church	Helen Keel- Head Disciple
Diane Reinhard – Disciple	Carol Martinez-Disciple	Carol Middleton – Disciple
Helen Coleman-Head Shepherd	Sam Everhart -Shepherd / Ideals	Amy Reinhart- Shepherd/ Study
Judy Tridico – Shepherd	Tina Mira- Table Leader	Jane Distel Table Leader / Leaders
Deb Hammer-Table Leader/ Action	Sandy Brickner – Table Leader /Piety	

Cursillo

If you wish to serve on a Cursillo Team in the future please get your Team Application, found at cursillo419, look under forms, or questions -- email us :

Robert Drewior robertdrewior774@gmail.com or

Dave Zaborski - thezaborskifamily@hotmail.com .

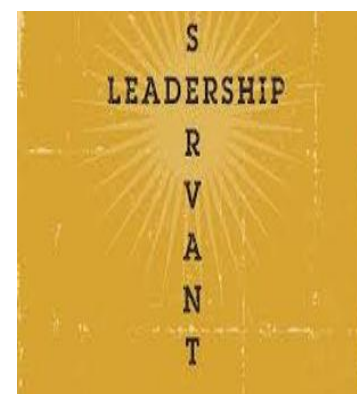
God Bless and DeColores

School of Leaders

God is Good ! All the Time ! and All the time ! God is Good !

Our April School Of Leaders will take place on Saturday April 20th at St.Michael Parish in Findlay. Once again, we will be in the **Activity Center**. We will enter the office door and go straight down the hallway to the glass doors. The time is as always 9am.- 12 noon
 Scripture reading will be Walter Beckford

Spiritual presentation will be Deacon Gerry G. from “Living With Real Presence” Chapter 3.1 Pages 87- 94



Shirley will be presenting from “Rescued” chapter 5-6 pages 60 – 73
We look forward to seeing you there. Walter will have the coffee on, Please bring a dish or snack to share. Of course we will be sharing our smiles and friendship through our Lord.

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



4th Day / Post Cursillo

Happy Easter to all of our dear Cursillistas. We pray you all had a lent that was challenging and that you were brought closer to the Lord. Betty and I were at the Easter vigil where we welcomed 6 Neophytes into the church and Confirmed 2 others, what a blessing it was.

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter also. The women's Cursillo weekend will soon be here on April 11 - 14th. Please try to attend the Holy Hour at 8pm on Saturday the 13th, Deacon Greg Siebenaller will be presiding and John or LuAnn Welch will be witnessing. We will serenade all the women after prayers. Enter by the way of the south Portico doors.

The closing is at 4:30 pm on Sunday the 14th, please arrive early, so we can begin on time. Enter by the front or portico doors. Shirley Fitz will be our Witness along the new Cursillistas of course. Please try to be there to support them.

Preparations for Focus Day are nearing completion, Keep June 15th open and plan to attend at St. Wendelin in Fostoria. Come and bring a friend. God bless and DeColores. Bill and Betty Obringer, Becky Smeltz, Angie Mehling



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

share what you are doing for Palanca! email to = Palanca419@outlook.com

Why should you do Palanca? Is God calling you to pray? Should you pray just for yourself? Should you pray just a little bit?

Though out the bible and in the church teaching, we Catholics are called to pray unceasing. The more I pray, the better and closer to God I feel. The more I pray, the more I find to pray for. God made us to have pleasure, to work and to worship him. Part of the work assign by Jesus is to help convert other people and help them get closer to God. One way is to pray for them as well as be a good example. A great way to worship is to pray, if possible, unceasingly.

I am praying for you; can you please pray for other people to get closer to God.

Remember, our prayers, fasting and praising our lord all help in this conversion of other people. This is why we need Palanca, with many hands, the work is lighter.

Jack B. Reuter, Palanca Chair.

Prayer Vine



(prayer requests for the month)

Doug Graham - infection after foot surgery and discolored arm, Gus & Pat Miller - Gus coming home from rehab, Karen Fritsch - abdominal pains & testing, Bob Drewior - Covid, team & candidates of Cursillo #293, Gus Miller - going home from rehab, John Lyons' son, Brandon - passed from cancer, Jamie - cancer surgery, Kathy - health issue, Annette - small mass on liver, Don Evans - passed into his Fifth Day, Dona Brown - in hospice with cancer, Charles - depression, Greg Gerber - needs prayers, Karen Fritsch - in hospital with pancreatitis, Jessie Rodriguez - surgery, someone going into a dementia unit from assisted living, niece - lost house in fire, Dee D - car accident, friend - kidney issues.



April Ultreya for **Area 7 and 10 Tiffin Area** ultreya will be Sunday April 28 from 7-9 PM in the Upper room @ Tiffin St Joes. Hope to see you there!

Area 8 Our April Ultreya will be April 15, 2024 at Resurrection parish in Lexington. 7:00-9:00PM. All are welcome!

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

On March 21st, 3 pm in adoration at St. Michaels Church , Kalida, OH

I, was privileged to be a disciple on Cursillo 293. Two weeks ago March 7th, 293 started in Tiffin Oh, We started with adoration at 6:00 pm, The greatest privilege and blessing I could be given. Spending time with God – God of the whole universe, He who created me and who I need to save me.

On Wednesday the 6th of March, I got all prepared for this great occasion. I went to confession - I wanted to have the right wedding garment on.

To acknowledge my absolute dependence on God as Father – and me, his little toddler, to put my hand into his and allow him to guide my every step, for I know He is my Father, is loving and would do nothing to harm me. I can lay my head on his breast in a peaceful sleep.

As Son – to the Son of God – Jesus – born of the Virgin Mary who chose to become man, to suffer and die for me and all mankind- for our salvation- to pay my debt, because Jesus loves me and all, none excluded from the holiest to the greatest sinner. He collected all humankind debts and paid them with His blood; He dwelt among us and redeemed us.

Jesus opened the salvation door. Now it's up to me, St. Pauls says, to fulfill what is lacking, the only, only thing lacking in me is to become a saint. I have learned now I must do - Piety - Study – Action -- for the love of God and all my brothers and sisters. We are all children of God.

Come Holy Spirit, for I need guidance, St. Paul – patron of Cursillo – pray for us.

Roger Brickner

De Colores!





CHRIST is COUNTING on YOU!

Join us for a day of renewing the basics of Cursillo.

Saturday - June 15, 2024

8:30am – 9:00am Registration, Fellowship & Breakfast

Starting at 9:00am to 4:00pm

Mass is at 4:30pm at St. Wendelin (if desired)

St. Wendelin Parish, 323 N. Wood St. Fostoria, Ohio



Secretariat Member openings

Current opening

Facilities



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

School of Leaders and Lay Directors - the current position holders will be with you one year to familiarize you with the service position.

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.

