



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.

February 2026

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

As I meditated on what I should address in this article, I encountered the Gospel reading for Thursday of the third week in ordinary time – the familiar parable in Mark 4:21 in which Jesus asked His disciples, “Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand?”

Jesus is the light of the world, and in God’s goodness, we have received – and continue to receive - that light. We first received Christ’s light through our baptism, and we continue to receive it in many other ways as we practice our faith. We receive His light when we come to Mass - through both the Holy Scriptures that are proclaimed, and in the Eucharist we receive. We receive His light through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We receive His light in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We receive His light through prayer and meditation, and through study of the Holy Scriptures. In all these ways, and in many others, we receive the light of Christ. But the question that Jesus puts before us in this Gospel passage is, “what will our RESPONSE be to

receiving that light?”

Time and again in the Gospels, Jesus makes it clear that we are called to imitate Him in the way we love and serve others in our lives. Time and again, Jesus tells us that we are to share our resources generously with those in need (and there is such great need in our world today).

There is no question that God wants us to grow in holiness. And there is no question that God wants us to grow in knowledge of Him through our study. And all of the afore-mentioned spiritual practices help us to grow in holiness – to receive God’s light.

Weekends 2026

Men - June 4 - 7th
Women - June 18-21st
Held at Maria Stein, OH

But if we do all those spiritual things, and then fail to show kindness and forgiveness to our family members, then we are hiding our light under a bushel basket. If we do all those spiritual things, but then choose not to generously share our “first fruits” to help support those in our community and in our world who are in need, then we are hiding our lamp under a bushel basket. If we do all those spiritual things, but then can’t bring ourselves to smile and say “hello” or “God

bless” to a stranger, or can’t bring ourselves to share fellowship with someone because they look, or live, or believe, or vote differently than us, then we are putting our lamp under a bushel basket.

If we spend time and energy in search of Christ’s light.....if we do all we can to grow in holiness, but we don’t live that holiness – don’t share that light -- then what is the point? Is holiness that is focused only inward really holiness at all?

The answer to that question comes a little later in that same Gospel reading, where Jesus tells his disciples, “The measure you give will be the measure you receive, and you will receive more in addition. To the one who has, more will be given; from the one who does not have, even what little he has will be taken away” (Mark 4:24-25).

Jesus is telling us that if we don’t share His light, we will lose it. But the good news is that we can’t exhaust His light by shining it on others. The more we let His light shine through us, the more of His light He will give us. That is the essence of the three-legged stool of piety, study, and action!

As we prepare to begin the season of Lent, let’s all take time to reflect deeply on whether our lamp has been on a lamp-stand, or under a bushel basket in all the areas of our lives. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to show us where we haven’t been letting that light shine as we are called to. Let’s all respond to the gift of Christ’s light by reflecting that light for all to see!

Deacon Don Fritsch

Lay Director

De Colores brothers and sisters in Christ!

In the Catholic Church, the month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family are a wonderful model for us and our families, with their example of holiness, and domestic virtue, love, unity and submission to God’s will.

I can’t help but think of how family changes throughout the years. For myself I’ve gone from simply being a daughter and sister, to becoming a wife and mom and on to a mother-in-law, stepmom ... you get the picture. Life is ever changing! But the important thing is what we do with these changes and how we allow God to teach us, use us, and guide us through these changes.

Mary and Joseph loved Jesus and each other dearly and devoted their lives to protecting and providing as best they could and allowing God’s will to come to fruition. I’m certain they also struggled at times with the young child and adolescent Jesus as they were human and so was he. They were no different than us in many ways.

Are you having struggles within your family? Are the kids and grandkids growing so quickly, not taking time for weekly mass? Is there a fight to balance technology time with family time? Are texting and emailing taking over face to face communication within your family?



Some of our challenges are very different than those of the Holy Family! But like them, we need to pray and ask God's guidance and strength. And we need to submit to God's will in all circumstances. We also need to do our best to be good examples of Christ to one another every day. Changes and challenges within our families will never stop, but neither will our prayers!

May the blessings of the Holy Family fill and strengthen you and your families during this winter season!

Yours in Christ,

Karen Fritsch (kittyrg1967@gmail.com)
Troy Peebles (tpeebles1007@gmail.com)



During these cold and gloomy winter months God lights our paths to visit the sick or dying, family, friends, neighbors or others that He asks us to meet. With God's grace we can share the love, warmth and peace of His Son Jesus with them. I ask that you continue to reflect, meditate and pray about making a friend, being a friend, and inviting that friend to make the June weekends. The upcoming Summer weekends are now just 4 months off which means teams will start forming in 1 1/2 months from now. I still have 1 application for each of the mens and womens weekends. The Candidate and Sponsors applications can be found on the www.Cursillo419.org web site then under The ARK & Forms tab.

Send applications to me at: EMAIL patmontgomery411@gmail.com or Mail 155 E. Keegan St. Deerfield, MI 49238 or Text 419-654-3604 or Call me 419-654-3604 and leave a message with any questions and I will call you back.

Thank you, Pat Montgomery



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

Cursillo

Hello all,

As I write this, we are anticipating a major winter storm. With the extreme cold outside, I am reminded of those who lack basic warmth, shelter, and food. It is a time to reflect on our shared humanity and the importance of caring for one another regardless of background or status.

As I prepare this update for the Ark, it also occurs to me that several members of our Cursillo community are in need of prayer. Please keep Tom, Abe, Patrick, Robert, and Carol in your daily devotions.

Additionally, we are currently seeking applications for this year's weekends. If you would like to serve, please send your information to Robertdrewior774@gmail.com or dzaborski411@gmail.com.

Best regards,
DeColores!!!!
Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

4th Day
Living in a world
after the resurrection

Jim and Chrissy Vasko will be replacing Bill and Betty Obringer and Becky Smeltz. Please give them your prayers of support. And thank you Bill, Betty and Becky for your service to Toledo Cursillo.

Hello to our fellow Cursillistas! We are Jim and Chrissy Vasko. We are honored to begin serving you in the Post-Cursillo role as part of the Secretariat. Please allow us to introduce ourselves. We lived Cursillos 259 and 260 respectively. We have both served on numerous teams. On these teams, Jim has served as Troubadour,

Table Leader, Professor of multiple rollos, Assistant Rector and Rector. Chrissy has served in the team roles of Shepherd, Head Shepherd, Disciple, and professor of multiple rollos. We are very much still learning about the full responsibilities of the Post Cursillo role, but look forward to meeting you all at Focus Day in April. God bless you all! De Colores!



Fellow Cursillistas,

It's hard to believe it's already February. I found a couple of verses from 1 Corinthians to be appropriate and beautiful for February as we celebrate Valentine's Day (but we should remember them all year). Verse 4 of Chapter 13 is "Love is patient, love is kind".. and verse 7 is "It(love) bears all things, believes all things, helps all things and endures all things".

SOL will meet February 21st in the Activity center (cafeteria) at St. Michael's in Findlay. The Activity center is straight ahead at the end of the hall as you enter the building. Doors open at 830 and we will meet from 9-noon.

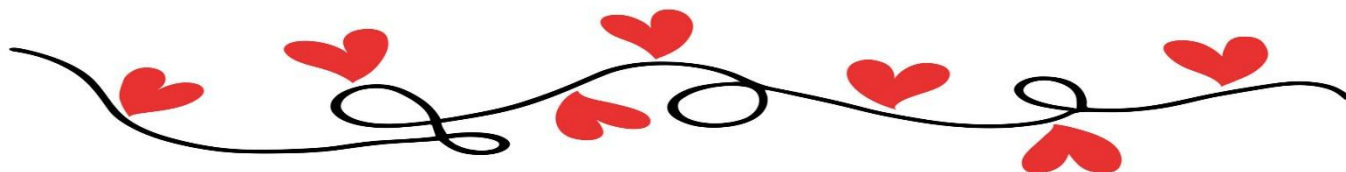
Troy Peebles will provide the scripture reading and reflection. Fr. Jim Brown will present pages 151-172 from "What Nobody Ever Told Us" and John Lyons will summarize chapters 9 and 10 of "Rediscovering Jesus".

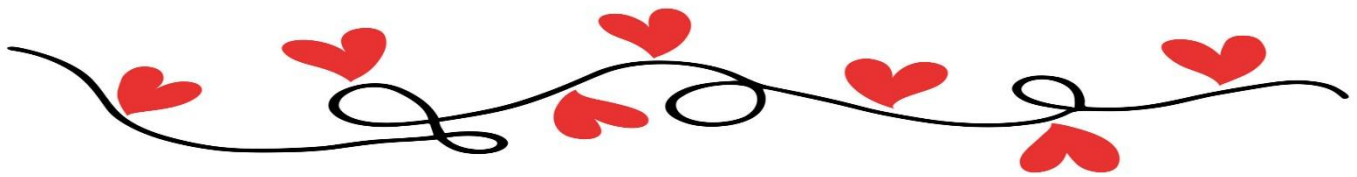
I hope to see you all there. Feel free to bring a snack to share.

DeColores,
Shirley Fitz



Friend's brother - committed suicide, families in need expecting babies, Tracy - upcoming surgery, Steve - ill, in hospital, friend's son - car accident, Karen Fair - fell at home, Tom Ainsworth - in ICU, Alexis - health issues after car accident, for those working out in the weather. Mark Spears, knee surgery, Mike Hinegardner, recovery after surgery, please pray for all those who are in the process of fighting cancers, that they feel Gods, presence and stay strong in their battle and for their families. Lift up those who will be out in the weather working on roads and those keeping us safe. For all the babies whose parents are contemplating abortion.





PALANCA

Palanca in Cursillo, we use the word Palanca to designate the spiritual force represented by voluntary prayers and sacrifices which are done ...knees are the levers.

February: Love in Action

February is known as the month of love, but Jesus calls us to a love that goes far beyond words or sentiment. He invites us to love as He loves—selflessly, intentionally, and with care for one another.

Palanca is love in action. Through prayer, sacrifice, and encouragement, we help lift others up and remind them they are not alone. As we celebrate love this month, may we respond to Jesus' call by offering palanca in our daily lives, allowing God's love to move through us and strengthen the Cursillo community.

De Colores , Bob & Alicia

2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Men's 735 (English)	Orange, CA	palanca@occursillo.org
2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Men's 3 (Spanish)	Charleston, SC	amarcella1206@yahoo.com
2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Men's 111 (English)	Harrisburg, Pa	ktkd0412@gmail.com
2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Men's 2 (Engilsh/Spanish/Hungarian)	Nagyvarad, Romania	saxingeres@gmail.com
2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Women's 280 (Spanish)	Lansing, MI	latinandie@yahoo.com
2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Women's 154 (English)	Fargo, ND	ndcursillomovementpalanca@gmail.com
2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Boston, MA	bostonpalanca@yahoo.com
2/5/2026	2/8/2026	Men's 397 (English)	Minneapolis, MN	EnglishMenPalanca@tc-cursillo.org
2/12/2026	2/15/2026	Women's 398 (English)	Minneapolis/St Paul, MN	EnglishWomenPalanca@tc-cursillo.org

2/12/2026	2/15/2026	Women's 124 (English)	Esztergom-Budapest, Hungary	tahicursillo@gmail.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Men's 214 (Spanish)	Rockville Centre, NY	alexvasquezfuentes20@hotmail.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Women's 736 (English)	Orange, CA	palanca@occursillo.org
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Men's 69 (Spanish)	Atlanta, GA	vocalcursillo-atl@outlook.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Men's 113 (English)	Little Rock, AR	moixfam@gmail.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Spring Men's Cursillo (English)	Crookston, MN	crookstoncursillo@gmail.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Men's Cursillo (English)	London, Ontario	johnvjr@kwic.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Women's 94 (Spanish)	Mexicali, B.C., Mexico	silvia_al2108@hotmail.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Men's 103 (English)	Evansville, IN	cwilzbacher@gmail.com
2/19/2026	2/22/2026	Men's 519 (Spanish)	León, Guanajuato, Mexico	mcc.c.silao@gmail.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 81 (English)	Kalamazoo, MI	kalamazoo.palanca@gmail.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women's 62 (Spanish)	Atlanta, GA	vocalcursillo-atl@outlook.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Richmond, VA	bblaws1@verizon.net
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's Cursillo (English)	Charleston, SC	amarcella1206@yahoo.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 101 (Italian)	Modena, Italy	cursillosmodena@gmail.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 273 (English)	Green Bay, WI	gbmenscursillo@gmail.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women's 1245 (Spanish)	Caguas, Puerto Rico	mariascrespo1963@gmail.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 112 (English)	Orlando, FL	orlcursillopalanca@gmail.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 78 (English)	Owensboro, KY	martin.schroeder67@att.net
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 121 (English)	Covington, KY	debby@cranley.net
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women's 119 (English)	Dancyville, TN	palanca@memphiscursillo.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 185 (English)	Milwaukee, WI	milwaukee.palanca@outlook.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	London, Ontario	johnvjr@kwic.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women 44 (English)	Nyíregyháza, Hungary	feferpalanca@icloud.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 65 (English)	Scranton, PA	philpatrod1942@gmail.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Men's 267 (Spanish)	Sacramento, CA	mccsacramento@outlook.com
2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women's 45 (Spanish)	Providence, RI	cursillospvd@gmail.com

2/26/2026	3/1/2026	Women's 339 (Spanish/English)	Mayaguez, Puerto Rico	hajimenez1@gmail.com
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Witness:

to share 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—

There will be upcoming positions opening

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.