



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.

January 2026

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
Prayer vine	Page 5
Ultreyas	Page 5
Palanca	Page 6
Witness	Page 6
Secretariate Openings	Page 7

Spiritual Advisor

Ever wonder why January 1st is New Year's Day? Google it; there is some interesting reading for those of us intrigued by such things. In the end, it just makes sense because January is named for the Roman god Janus who was the god of beginnings. He is depicted with two faces: one faces back and the other forward. He looks back at the past and forward to the future. New Year's is a time to do the same. To look at where we have been and where we are headed. It is also a time to examine our lives to see if we are lined up to get where we say we want to go. A ship may want to go to a certain point but may miss it if the route is off by a few degrees. A space ship may want to go to the moon but will miss it if the trajectory is off by the slightest degree. We may say we want to follow Jesus but do our actions bear out our intentions?

The Church also takes time to look back and to look forward. I was struck by the readings for January 7th. John's Gospel looks way back to before time:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God."

The epistle is also from John but in it, he reminds us that we are in the final hour before the second coming of Jesus. He addresses the tough issue of some falling from the faith but encourages us: "But you have the anointing that comes from the Holy One, and you all have knowledge."

Not that we know everything, but that we have the teachings of the Church, the deposit of Faith, from which we can draw. But most of all, our anointing through our Baptism and Confirmation which brings us into relationship with God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

If my goal is to spend the rest of my life on earth in a strong loving relationship with my wife, then I must make sure that my actions help build our relationship. If my goal is to spend eternal life with God, then I must examine my actions to make sure that they build my relationship with God. If I am married, I have a duty to help my spouse "get to heaven." I must examine my actions to make sure they will achieve that goal.

Many years ago, a speaker said: "You are where you are, because that is where you wanted to be." We are where we are right now due to the decisions and actions we have made up to this point. If I do not like where I am right now, then I need to examine my life and determine what I need to change to be where I say I want to be. This takes effort and it often takes others. Do not be afraid to reach out to someone in our Movement and ask for help. Even if it has

Spring Weekends 2026

**Men – June 4-7th
Women -- June 18 – 21st
Maria Stein, OH**

been years, we are here to help. We will listen and may direct you to someone else because we care about you. Sometimes a correction of a couple degrees can make all the difference between making it to the moon or missing it.

Deacon Andy McMahon



LAY DIRECTORS

De Colores brothers and sisters in Christ!

“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart.” Jer 29: 11-13

I’m certain many of you have heard the saying, “God laughs at you when you make plans.” Another is, “God only knows.” And there’s always, “I have no idea what’s going to happen.” Do you think maybe part of God’s plan for us is to not only give us “a future and a hope”, but to teach us to “seek him with all your heart”? If you’re not seeking Him and trusting him, where is your hope?

We Cursillistas range in age from 19 years old to 90? Years old. Our wants and needs, and dreams and desires are all different! God’s plan for each of us is different also. Yet, if each of us, young and old, believes, prays, and seeks our great God, we are all the same.

Starting a new year or a new season in our lives is a wonderful time (as any) to turn to God with an open heart and mind and ask him what he has in store for us. It’s a good time to seek him and pray asking for his wisdom and guidance in all that will come our way.

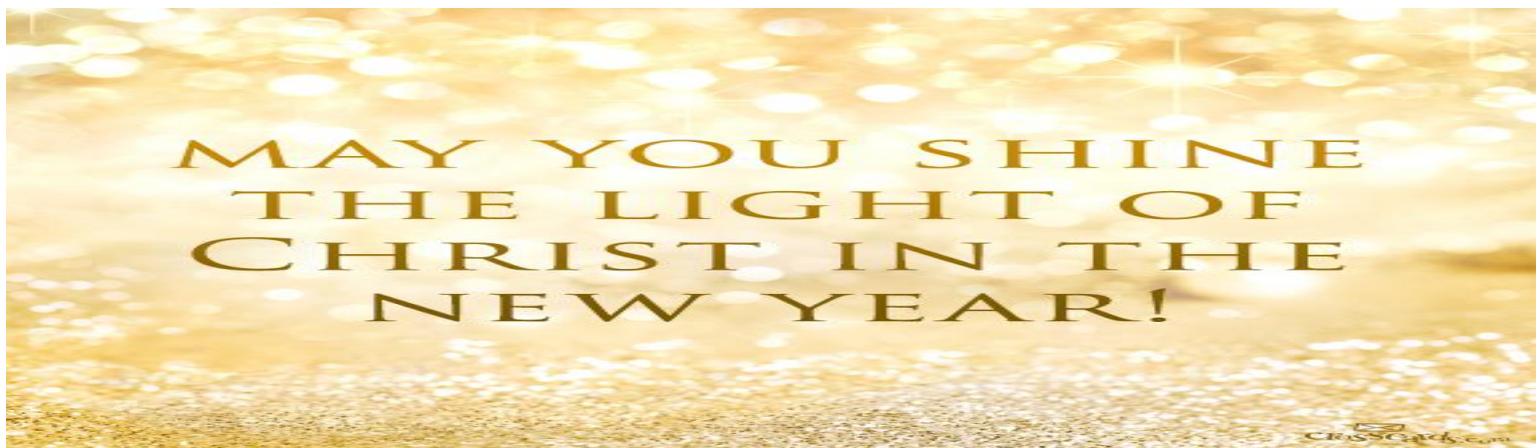
Often a new year or season means change. Troy and I and the rest of our Secretariate, along with the entire Cursillo community are amid change. We have been praying for guidance, wisdom, and direction and ask your continued prayers and support as 2026 brings about change for our

Diocese of Toledo Cursillo Movement. We know this isn't easy, or wanted, but it is a necessity. We ask you to trust our decisions and continue to be a part of the movement as these changes come about. We are a community, a family and continue to need our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially during times of change!

“The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” Num 6: 24-26

Karen Fritsch (kittyrg1967@gmail.com)

Troy Peebles (tpeebles1007@gmail.com)



Hoping your holiday season has given you many memories and blessings to carry forward and share in this new year. The upcoming Summer weekends are now just 5 months off which means teams will start forming in 2 1/2 to 3 months from now. I currently have 1 application for each of the mens and womens weekends. As winter has set in upon us I ask that you reflect and meditate on the Christmas Season and pray thoughtfully about making a friend, being a friend, and inviting that friend to make the June weekends. The applications can be found on the www.Cursillo419.org web site then under The ARK & Forms tab. Send applications to me at: via

EMAIL patmontgomery411@gmail.com or Mail 155 E. Keegan St. Deerfield, MI 49238 or Text 419-654-3604 or Call me with any questions.

Thank you, Pat Montgomery

Cursillo

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Don't forget to get your Team Applications to Robert Drewior (robertdrewior774@gmail.com) or Dave Zaborski (dzaborski411@gmail.com) We had a great time Christmas Caroling for the Residents at Hope Manor Complex on Saturday .



4th Day

Living in a world
after the resurrection

Happy New Year to everyone! Hope everyone had a blessed and glorious Christmas. The next Focus Day is April 18th and the next Men's and Women's Cursillos will be in June of 2026. Jim and Chrissy Vasco will be taking over our position of Post Cursillo in 2026. We pray that everybody will keep Christ first in their lives and continue to pray for the Cursillo Movement. All of you are in our prayers every day. God bless us everyone! Bill and Betty Obringer and Becky Smeltz





Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays with your families. School of Leaders will resume on January 17th. We will meet in the Marian room at St. Michael's Findlay from 9-12. Doors open 8:30.

Kathy Otermin will be presenting the scripture reading. Sr. Edna will guide us through "What Nobody Ever Told Us" pages 133-150.

Tom Russell will present Chapters 7&8 from "Rediscover Jesus".

I hope to see you all on the 17th. Feel free to bring a snack to share.

DeColores
Shirley Fitz



Amy Hoffman - kidney removal surgery, Greg - heart surgery, Cindy Brodman - foot surgery, Jane Lopez's son Abel - probably kidney cancer, friend - fighting cancer, Ellen Beckley - starting chemo, friend - torn ligament, Barb Warner - upper respiratory infection, Troy's brother Chris - close to end of life, Lila - blood clot & surgery, Donna Darr - passed away, Holly - severe respiratory infection, in hospital.

Not receiving prayer requests? You can email Jane Distel at prayersaregoingup@gmail.com to begin seeing them in your email.



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 – Tiffin area Ultreya is tentatively set for Jan.25, 2026 at 7pm in The Upper Room of St. Joseph Activity Center in Tiffin.

Area 8 Ultreya -- Area 8 January Ultreya will be held on January 12, 2026 at Resurrection parish hall in Lexington. We will have our Christmas potluck beginning at 6:30 P.M. Meat, drink and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.



PALANCA

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” – Psalm 107:1

In the heart of winter, when days are short and nights are long, the joy of the Christmas season shines brightly. As the calendar turns and a new year begins, we are offered the grace of new beginnings. Winter may appear still, but beneath the surface, God is always at work, preparing new life. This is a sacred time to entrust our hopes, struggles, and resolutions to Him, trusting that He will bring growth in His time. May our palanca during this season help build the Body of Christ bringing renewal, and joy—rooted in Christ, strengthened by prayer, and hopeful for all that lies ahead.

De Colores.

1/1/2026	1/4/2026	Men's 165 (Spanish)	Boise, ID	cursillos_if_esp@outlook.com
1/15/2026	1/18/2026	Women's 2 (Spanish)	Scranton, PA	mcceballo65@gmail.com
1/15/2026	1/18/2026	Men's Cursillo (English)	Windsor/Essex County, Canada	
		wecursillopalanca@gmail.com		
1/29/2026	2/1/2026	Woman's 107 (English)	Harrisburg, PA	billb671@verizon.net
1/29/2026	2/1/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Windsor/Essex County, Canada	
		wecursillopalanca@gmail.com		
1/29/2026	2/1/2026	Men's 145 (English)	Ottawa-Cornwall, Ontario, Canada	
		john.sullivan.1993@gmail.com		
1/29/2026	2/1/2026	Women's 159 (Spanish)	Philadelphia, PA	elycontreras0113@gmail.com
1/30/2026	2/1/2026	Men's 474 (French)	Outaouais, Quebec, Canada	palancas.ou@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.



