



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 2023

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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April Ark Article from Spiritual Director
Fr Jim Brown

DeColores! My sisters and brothers in Christ.

What a blessing you are in my life as you live Christ in your everyday life, making Him visible in all you say and do. As we begin this fourth month of the year April, we move from the forty days of the Lenten Season and Holy Week into the Fifty Day of the Easter Season. The forty days are a reminder of our ashen character as we journey with Jesus through the Way of the Cross into the Fifty Days of Resurrection. In Jesus the 'dust that we are' is given new Life and new possibilities, new hopes and new dreams. I came upon an April poem by Fr. Andrew Costello CSSR, published in Markings in 1990 by The Thomas More Association. (All rights reserved)

It is entitled, "April Mirror"

April scenes of budding and bursting flowers, Easter moments, fresh starts, new beginnings.

And this spring I stand here on the edge of a field of new possibilities. And yet a winter mirror of my sins stares me in my face.

Lord, I see the Judas in me and all the times I have betrayed you, and then going out all alone and every time hanging myself in shame.

Lord, I see the Simon Peter in me who keeps denying you, 3 times, 70 times 7 times, Rarely in words, so many times in deeds, and I never stop to hear the rooster crow.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekend

Fall 2023

Men # 291

September 7-10

Women # 292

October 12-15

Lord, I keep seeing the Pontius Pilot in me, washing my hands over and over again of responsibilities at work and at home, and not being able to wash away the reality that this is what I am really doing every time: guilty, guilty, guilty, over and over and over again.

Lord of Resurrection, Lord of Spring, Breaker of mirrors, help me to start looking and seeing a new me in me (and You in me) in this new springtime in my life.

(Andrew Costello)

During these fifty days the Church calls us into the season of “Mystogy” which means an unfolding of the Mystery of who we are now in the Risen Christ Jesus and how we are to live in these mysteries. The Latin word for ‘mystery’ is Sacrament. We are called to BE living Sacraments of Christ’s presence in our environments.

This year, and for the next several years we are focusing on the Eucharistic Revival.

- **Revival** · restoration to life, consciousness, vigor, strength, etc. · restoration to use, acceptance, or currency: the revival of old customs. · a new production ...
- **The awakening or quickening of God's people to their true nature and purpose.**
- Revival literally means "**come back to life.**" An ER doctor might perform a revival of someone whose heart has stopped. We usually use it to mean "returned to ...
- The act or an instance of reviving or the state of being revived ; **an instance of returning to life or consciousness; restoration of vigor or vitality**

This year is the Year of the Diocese. On the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on June 11, the focus turns to the parish observances. [This will be a wonderful opportunity for Cursillistas to lead in their parishes.] The third year will be a national celebration, like a Eucharistic Congress to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Why do we Need it? Why Now? Because the Church needs healing. And the World needs the Church!

Scandal, division, disease, doubt. The Church has withstood each of these throughout our very human history. But today we confront all of them, all at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal.



In the midst of these roaring waves, **Jesus is present**, reminding us that he is more powerful than the storm. He desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world.

How will He do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the United States to this divine invitation.

I invite all who are reading this article to share it with others and to get involved with the Revival Process, in the Diocese and especially in the parish. After all, we in the Cursillo Movement have so much to offer the Church.

I would like to close with the new Diocesan PRAYER FOR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL: Soon we will be praying this at every Mass.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who promises to remain with us always and who is ever present to us in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Reawaken our belief in His presence in the Eucharist and deepen our understanding of, love for and living out of this great Mystery May this Sacrament of his sacrificial love be for us the sign of unity and the bond of charity.

Nourish through our worthy reception of the Body and Blood of your Son, so that we may enjoy communion with you and with one another. Make us living witnesses of your love and mercy throughout our local church.

Send us forth as faithful missionary disciples, strengthened by the grace of the Eucharist to proclaim the Gospel, so tall may know that the Living Bread Jesus gives us is His Flesh for the life of the world.. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I encourage you to check out www.toledodiocese.org/eucharist and/or www.eucharisticrevival.org, The national web site. Also much can be found on FORMED, Augustine Institute, Ascension Press and Bishop Barren's Word On Fire. And there is always the Catholic Catechism. Wow! There is so much to choose from. What a blessing. May each of you be blessed in the Lord Jesus and always BE a blessing to all you serve.
Fr Jim Brown



LAY DIRECTOR

(Each month, one of our Lay Directors will write an article.)

Greetings in Christ! Can you believe that lent is almost over? I've tried to spend more time reading (good books) this lent. I haven't always succeeded! The other day I was in adoration chapel asking God what he would have me write about this month. As it would be, we are studying "Living with Real Presence: Eucharist as an approach to Life" By S. James Meyer. So I was doing some reading and out pops the words on the pages...Blessed, Broken and Shared. I felt the 'nudge' that this was my topic. Without getting into the book I think we can all say we are first, blessed! In so many ways! Yes we all have our trials, our ups and downs. Our good days and not so good days. But all in all, if we are honest with ourselves, we are blessed. And I do know that when we are in the middle of our 'stuff', it is very hard to see the good, the blessings. But God does love us unconditionally!! Right where we are! And He loves us so much, that He won't leave us there; in our broken, very broken mess. And the messes are sometimes what we create, and sometimes what others create, and then there are the messes that life throws at us. The ones that come from left field...fast! We don't even see it coming. It's here. How you and I deal with it says a lot about whom we are and in whom we place our trust. We come from a very long line of brokenness, don't we? Go back, way back. Let's start with..Adam and Eve. I dare say we haven't gotten much better at getting out of our own way and letting God in; most of the time. As Meyer says, " Finally, we take refuge on a spot where we can collect the pieces of our own truth and tape them together. It may be tenuous, but at least it

makes sense, so we stay right there. Although fragile, we feel whole for the first time. Or at least whole enough. We'd rather not move on and risk shaking things loose." But isn't this what Jesus asks of us? To step outside our comfort zones and be His hands, His feet, His eyes, His ears; you get the point. We are here on earth passing through. This is not our home! In our brokenness we are called by our baptism to share our lives with others. To help each other up! To be Christ to others; especially those who hurt us, bruise us. It is so very easy to love those, help those, be with those who love us. And when we are on the mountain top with Jesus on a cursillo weekend, we don't want to leave. Lord, let me build a tent for you.....sound familiar? But Jesus says no, I need you in this torn, broken, tattered world. And we answer, But I'm broken scarred, bruised, confused, frightened, a sinner. But I want you !! Jesus answers. I Love you and I will be with you through it all. To walk with you and guide you. Just trust in me! I remember a story I received at cursillo; you and Jesus are on a tandem bicycle. You on the front Jesus on the back. As you go through the town, twisting and turning, you are huffing and puffing, and you say to Jesus, boy this is really hard pedaling and steering, trying to stay on the road. Jesus says back to you, let's switch places. And you do. Then, as you pedal, you take in the rolling hills, the beautiful flowers, the birds soaring around. And you say to Jesus, this isn't so bad. And He says back, I'm glad you let me steer. Who is steering your life? Is Jesus you Co-Pilot or Pilot? As you and I look at the crucifix this lent, let's try and remember that Jesus is always with us, through the thick and thin. He loves us and is with us always. Let's share His love!

You are always welcome at the School of Leaders on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Come and share in the discussions, fellowship and food. We'd love to see you!

And don't forget the women's cursillo this month! April 20 – 23. Holy Hour and serenade on Saturday starting @ 8. Closing on Sunday starts @ 4:30

DeColores & Ultreya

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com

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PRE-CURSILLO

Womens Cursillo #290 Candidates

As of 4/1

Sheila D'Aguanno

Laura Stewart

Patti Wasserman

Judy Tridico

Reginia Wagner

Becky Calger

Jennifer Purcell

Deb Dazley

Caitlin Dazley

Amy Reinhart

St. Thomas More, Bowling Green

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Temperance

St. Michael, Gibsonburg

St. Peters, Mansfield

All Saints, Mansfield

St. Marys the Assumption, Van Wert

Holy Trinity, Bucyrus

St. Michael, Gibsonburg

St. Michael, Gibsonburg

All Saints, New Riegel

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Cursillo

Spiritual Director
 Spiritual Director
 Rector
 Rector
 Troubadour
 Troubadour
 Head Disciple
 Disciple
 Disciple
 Disciple
 Disciple
 Sacristan

Team #290

Father Richard Notter
 Sister Mary Jo Szpila
 Kathy Otermat
 Annabell Swint
 Joani Wise
 Marie King
 Elaine Conley
 Jane Lopez
 Sue Bishop
 Debbie Santini
 Tina Mira
 Juanita Ybanes

Professors

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Ideals | Barb Lovell |
| Laity | Marilyn Hinegardner |
| Piety | Susan Sepeda |
| Study | Marie Stanhope |
| Action | Helen Coleman |
| Leaders | Lori Kamelesky |
| Environment | Karen Reinhart |
| Action | Marie King |
| Head Shepherd | Jan Stainbrook |
| Shepherd | Juanita Ybanes |
| Shepherd | Marilyn Hinegardner |
| Shepherd | Marie Stanhope |
| Shepherd | Helen Coleman |

School of Leaders :

Seasons Greetings, Friends!

There is nothing like the season of spring to bring a smile to the face of this gardener after the cold dark days of winter. I'm betting there are quite a few of us who enjoy longer hours of daylight and the signs of spring from birds singing to buds forming and early flowers peeping out of the mud (or snow). But we can't have a beautiful spring without the winter, can we?

And "doing without" the sunshine, warm breezes, and colors of spring makes us appreciate them so much more when they return.

We are on the brink of Holy Week as I write this reflection. If your Lenten practices have been feeding your soul you will have the soil of your heart ready for this week and the beautiful gift of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

If you have had a hard time this Lent with various life crisis situations foiling your Lenten plans, perhaps you can just focus on the crucifix this week in silent prayer.

Maybe pray a rosary each day, even if you have to say a decade at a time.

Ask Mother Mary to take you with her to the foot of the cross on Good Friday.

We can have no Easter without the Passion, right?

I'll be praying for and with all of you that together we can each grow deeper in our faith this Holy Week and Easter season.



Our next **School of Leaders** will be on **Saturday April 15 @ Findlay St. Michaels in the Marian room**. That is the first room on the right just after you turn right from the entry hall.

We are there from 9-noon and doors open at 8:30 AM.

Scripture and reflection will be led by Mike Cherry.

Dale Fair will present our study of Chapter 11, Christian Friendship, pp. 115-122 from the book "Into His Likeness" by Edward Sri.

Fr. Skip will give us his reflection on chapter 2; Fruit of Our Labor, Work of Our Hands, pp. 15-22 from the new book, "Living With Real Presence, Eucharist as an Approach to Life", by S. James Meyer. We still have a couple of the books available for purchase if you want one. (\$15.00 each).

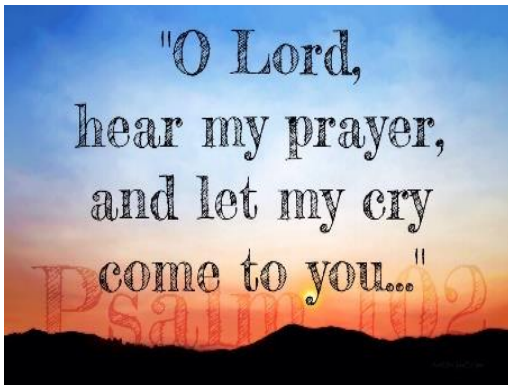
We look forward to your company on the 15th! We will have the coffee and tea ready. Bring a snack to share and a friend, too. We have great music, discussions and prayer time, along with lots of hugs and smiles as we grow together in faith!

Blessings and hugs,

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Prayervine



. Gus & Pat Miller - Covid, Brandon - brain tumor, Diane Gregorich - meningitis, young mom - breast cancer, David Stout - cancer, woman and her daughter - house fire, Gary Keel - stress test, Claranne Bohn - breast cancer, Roni - lung & bone cancer, exwife's husband - cancer, person having shoulder replacement, Brandon - starting chemo & radiation, daughter - killed in accident, Marge Fisher - surgery, young wife & mom - cancer, Jessie - cancer. Pat Miller - prayers of thanksgiving, Aron Duran - burn accident at work. Pat Montgomery - spinal surgery.

Fourth Day

Thank you to all who attended Cursillo 289 Holy Hour and Closing. I'm sure the new Cursillistas were gratified by the outpouring of love they felt. The women's Cursillo 290 (April 20-23) is quickly approaching. **Holy hour will be April 22nd at 8pm** and the **Closing will be on the 23rd at 4:30pm**. Please continue to do Palanca and pray for all the candidates and team. **Focus Day** is set for **June 17th at Fostoria St. Wendelin from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**. Keep the date open and plan to attend. Your friends in Christ, Bill and Betty Obringer, Becky Smeltz, Angie Mehling.



The area 8 Ultreya will be on Monday April 17, from 7-9 PM at Lexington Resurrection parish hall. All are welcome! (Please note we are having this one on the third Monday due to Easter the week before).

Area 7 and 10 (Tiffin area) Ultreya will be held on April 16. 7pm at St Joseph, Tiffin. It will be held in the Upper Room.



They say, “April showers bring May flowers”. Such a grand, warming thought that spring is here and our surroundings will brighten up. But let’s look at this idea in a different way. What if we look at it this way- April showers (tears shed from walking Christ’s Passion) bring May flowers (the joyful gift of eternal life). Everything can become new in spring, even our take on life. We are washed clean in Christ’s blood that He shed for us so we may live forever. Just a different take on this.

Cursillo family, let us bring this joy to others this special Holy season of Easter. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Cursillo movement. There are 39 listed Cursillos thus far in April (due to Passion Sunday and Easter there are less than normal), including our own Women’s 290 which is held April 20-23. Please do palanca and send palanca.

Happy Easter to my favorite “peeps”!

De Colores, Jan Stainbrook, Palanca Chair

Witness:

Please share how Christ is working in your life. Email to: judbrick616@gmail.com

Secretariat Member openings

Current Openings :

Cursillo

Facilities



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.

CURSILLO WEBSITE: www.cursillo419.org Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month’s Ark or download forms.