



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.

October, 2021

Application Forms are on the Website: www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

(Each month, a Spiritual Advisor will write an article)
My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father and fellowship with the Holy Spirit be with you all and sustain you in all that you are about.

Isn't it great to be back in Carey in our "own home" as it were? Kudos to Karen and John Reinhart who have stepped out in faith and are making it happen for all of us. Please pray for them and support them in any way that they need. If you own your own home then you know that home ownership has its many perks, but there is also the reality and downside of an older building with upkeep and constant repairs.

We are back! And it feels so good to have weekends again. The Fall English Men's weekends have taken place and the English Women's weekend is about to happen. NOW is the time to begin praying about candidates for the Spring Weekends. Be about making friends and being a friend... and bringing them to Christ perhaps through the Cursillo Movement.

I was blessed recently by being a participant on a pilgrimage to Medjugorji. This was my first time there and it was an awesome experience. Unlike Rome and the Holy Land, which can be prayerful if you are intent about it, but mostly you are a tourist, Medjugorji is a very peaceful, holy and prayerful place. Our Lady's presence is felt - and not just because of all the statues - but a real sense of peacefulness. The rosary, Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confession and hands on participation in the service to the poor and elderly are an essential part of the pilgrimage.

Climbing Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain is an ordeal but again very prayerful and reflective. From the rocks come five stones as reminders of who we are and what we are supposed to be doing. 1. Pray the rosary everyday from the heart. Eventually pray and meditate on all four sets of mysteries each day. 2. Read Sacred Scripture every day. Daily readings, the coming Sunday readings or choose a book of the bible and read it through a chapter a day. 3. Attend Mass on the weekend and during the week if possible. 4. Fast twice a week (especially on Wednesday and

Upcoming 2021 Cursillo Weekends

Women's Oct. 14-17

Please share how Christ is working in your life.

Email

Nancy Cook at
nancy750@bex.net

Friday). Try just bread and water. Or fast from T.V. or social media. 5. Go to confession once a month and spiritual direction.

This past June, Fr Skip and I attended the Priest, Deacon Seminarian Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville. During the four days there, I picked up information about “Discipleship Quads” and brought it home. What sparked my interest is our Cursillo Grouping and how this was a parallel or could be useful for us as we group.

Quad groups are four people (same gender) thus the name quad (four) who commit to meet weekly with each other in prayer, study and action. After a year, they each form another quad with three other people. There is a Guidebook to direct the group with the study portion with reflective questions and challenges to do some kind of action. The guidebook is a key to the process. The focus is on discipleship in Jesus Christ, and then to make new disciples.

In Cursillo Grouping there are three or four and sometimes more. Commitment to the process and to each other is assumed but not always required or even expected. The content of the group discussion is supposed to center on prayer, study and action. But the content of what the prayer, the study and the action are very nebulous and usually are not done in the group. The focus is often to keep the movement going and not always the person of Jesus Christ.

I was thinking that maybe we could reflect on this process during our School of Leaders and perhaps make some recommendations to our groups through the ARK. The material about Discipleship Quads are free for the download and can be accessed by using the address: steubenvilleconference.com/discipleship-quads. I look forward to seeing you during the Apostolic Holy Hours and at the School of Leaders.

Ultreya!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr Jim Brown



Lay Director

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

How do you illuminate your environments? We talk about studying your environments. But I don't recall anyone talking about illuminating them. In Luke 8:16-18, Scripture tells us not to conceal our light by putting it under a bushel or under a bed. In grouping we discussed this one evening. It was very enlightening! How can you not share the love of Christ (light) that has been shared with you? When coming off a weekend, how many times do we hear that the person was “changed”, not the same person he or she was before living the Cursillo weekend? And we all know that you cannot possibly work a weekend and not feel the radiating presence of the Holy Spirit.

At the last closing it was remarked that the new Cursillistas were glowing. And indeed, they all were. Just like when Moses went up the mountain and spent time before God. He glowed so much that it frightened the Israelites back in camp when Moses came down. I believe God does that with us when we come to Him on the weekends. And so, you are on “fire” for the Lord. You have zeal and want to go out and change the world. Then the world hits you in the face! OUCH! Reality. How do you keep going? What do you do to keep your fire going? Do you group? All the time? Or when you feel like it? Remember that when taking the log from the fire the embers eventually burn themselves out. We need to stay in the fire to keep our flames alive. To keep glowing.

God has appointed each one of us to a certain task while we are here on this earth that no one else has been given. As St Paul says, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race.” We also need to keep fighting the fight. And what keeps me going? I cannot live on distant memories of past Cursillos. I need fresh events to keep going. So, to keep on going I try to stay immersed in our movement. To keep pushing forward. We are all apprentice, Christians. That means we all need to keep learning, myself included.

Go to grouping (or start a group). Go to Ultreya (when they are available in your area). Do palanca and write palanca for the weekends. Come to the Holy Hours and Serenades. Come to the closings. There is so much joy, love and laughter at these events. We are a community, and we need each other in order to grow. We all have gifts (talents) from God that no one else has. Please, use them. Don't let them go to waste. Let us lift each other up in prayer, fasting and almsgiving to God who has given each one of us so very much. He loves YOU! Love Him back. One last thought.... when was the last time you had a close moment? Watch for it each and every day. DeColores!!!

May the peace of Christ always disturb your life!

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat kotermat04@gmail.com



Pre-Cursillo

What a beautiful time of year fall is! As we entered this season last week, it reminded me of our ‘DeColores’ song. We sing about the colors around us, the brightness those colors bring to us. The song mentions the springtime, but I also like to think of it in the fall. The leaves are starting to turn colors, and soon the trees will be full of those bright colors. There are lots of trees around where I live, so I enjoy watching those colors, as well as walking in the leaves once they have fallen. As one of my high school students said, “It is so satisfying to hear the crunch of the leaves.” I feel like God gives us the wonderful colors of fall so that we can think back on them during the long, cold days of winter.

At this time, we have at 11 confirmed for the upcoming women's weekend. Most have told me how excited they are to be attending the weekend. These women are ready! Candidate names are listed below and will also be on the Prayer Vine in the coming days.

Candidates for Cursillo #284

Name/Parish/Sponsor

Kim Schmitz/Findlay St. Michael/John Reinhart

Elaine Soper/Toledo St. Catherine/ Kathy Huffman

Marilyn Heitkamp/North Baltimore Holy Family/Carol Middleton

Anca Qin/ Lima St. Charles/Beth Wilson

Carol Scally/Toledo Most Blessed Sacrament/ Mary Lyons

Janice Mignano/Temperance (Michigan) Our Lady of Mount Carmel/ Jamie Southers

Nadine Dukeshire/ Temperance Our Lady of Mount Carmel/Barb Grycza

Dawn Witt/Swanton Holy Trinity/Ruth Holtgrieve

Laura Solly/Toledo Most Blessed Sacrament/ Mary Lyons

Lauri Russell/Toledo St. Clement/ Sandra Russell

Lisa Doseck/Lima St. Charles/Beth Wilson

Please continue to pray for these women, as well as the team.

DeColores!

MaryAnn Hohman

Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

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Make a Friend – Be A Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ

Cursillo

Fall is upon us. I read something recently that said we should all take a lesson from the trees. Not sure this is exactly how it went but here we go ...

The lesson we need to learn is that change can be beautiful. (The trees are gloriously colored in the Fall.) We sometimes have to accept change and in the case of the trees ... "die" or become "dormant" ... We need this time to absorb what is natural to change and rebirth in order to bloom again at another time in a new way. It seems that is relevant for all of us in the many stages and circumstances of our lives. Another gift from God through nature.

As soon as the Fall weekends are finished, it will be time to consider working on a Spring team. We are ready and waiting to accept your team applications. You can secure applications by going to the Cursillo website or by e-mailing or by personally calling us (yes .. people still do that...). We will see that your

applications are secured and sent to the Spring rectors.

God bless you all through your Fall "changes".

Love and prayers

The Huffmans

School of Leaders (live and in person!!)

Bless Us, O Lord, And These Thy Gifts Which We Are About To Receive From Thy Bounty. In Christ's Name, Amen.

We are so thankful to be called by our Lord into his friendship and share that friendship with each other. In doing so, we create Christian communities. One such Community is our School Of Leaders. I am so happy we can come together once a month to share, learn, and be in that friendship. Praise God!

Our next School Of Leaders Meeting will be held Sat. Oct. 16th at St. Michael's, 750 Bright Rd. Findlay Oh. at 9:00 am. Come in the main office door, at the first corridor turn right and you are at the room we meet in. Feel free to bring a snack to share and a fellow Cursillo member who has not been to a School Of Leaders in a while. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Presenting at the October School Of Leaders Meeting:

1. Dale Fair, Scripture reading with reflection
2. Spiritual Advisor presentation, Deacon Ron Plenzler , Chapter 11 of "His Way"
3. Lay presentation, John Lyons, Chapter 12 "Study Of The Charism"

It is great to be back at School Of Leaders meetings in person. I look forward to seeing you on October 16th.

Prayers for the Spanish Men's Team and Candidates and the Women's Team and Candidates.

The Spanish Men's Weekend has been postponed. The Women's Weekend is October 14th through the 17th.

May God Bless You!

Walter Beckford, Rector



4th Day

I got that Joy Joy Joy down in my heart down in my heart. I got that Joy Joy Joy down in Carey down in Carey. I'm sure so many of you are thrilled to be back in Carey. As a newbie I felt that there is so much history there. The Little White Chapel was glowing with the Holy Spirit our first weekend back. I felt the Holy Spirit was sending so much love on Saturday night during Holy Hour and again on Sunday night for closing. The music, singing, and the witness that the new Cursillistas brought a new renewal of Cursillo. We are back and stronger than ever.

We are blessed that the Retreat House is reopening to have a place that people can go and reflect on their spiritual journey. Where we can share the love that our Holy Father gives so freely to us. Love we may share with others who want the same love.

As we start to do more things in our lives, let us remember we are starting to meet in person for School of Leaders, Focus Day and Weekends. Please come and support these activities. We all can learn something new by sharing God's Love.

Ultreya from your Fourth Day Team,

Karen and John Reinhart , phone: 419 722-4257, email: kittyrg1967@gmail.com
Luanne and John Welch phone: 419 478-3610, email: john4toledo@yahoo.com



Prayervine

Granddaughter - in hospital with Covid, great grandson - in Afghanistan, Deacon Lewis & wife - Covid, grandson & family - conflicts, Todd - severe liver issues, palanca for upcoming Cursillo's, Rosemary Quitter - end of life, Santos - kidney problems, grandson - lost wife to Covid, Cory - Covid & pneumonia, Mike - continued issues with Parkinsons, Santos - thanksgiving prayers, Matthew & wife - Covid, Greg Schlueter - ill, Judi - heart attack, Fr. John Lehner - in hospital for tests, Judi - passed away after heart attack.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at
prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.

Palanca Requests

10/7/2021	10/10/21	Men's 213 (English)	Pittsburgh, PA
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Women's 40 (English)	Venice, FL
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Women's 140 (English)	Birmingham, AL
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Men's 80 (Spanish)	Denver, CO
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Women's 73 (English)	Fort Wayne/South Bend, IN
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Men's 129 (Spanish)	St Augustine, FL
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Dallas, TX
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Men's 265 (English)	Manchester, MI
10/7/2021	10/10/2021	Men's 130 (English)	Wichita, KS
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Women's 74 (English)	Kalamazoo, MI
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Men's 298 (English)	San Diego, CA
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Women's 61 (Spanish)	Tyler, TX
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Women's 112 (English)	Lafayette-Indianapolis, IN
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Men's 27 (Spanish)	Kalamazoo, MI
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Men's Cursillo (English)	Gary, IN
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Women's 284 (English)	Toledo, OH
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Women's 156 (Spanish)	Chihuahua, Chih (Mexico)
10/14/2021	10/17/2021	Women's 89 (English)	Worcester, MA
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Men's Cursillo (English)	Altoona-Johnstown, PA
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Men's 75 (English)	Kalamazoo, MI
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Women's 31 (English)	Bismarck, ND
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Women's 299 (English)	San Diego, CA
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Women's 127 (Spanish)	St Augustine, FL
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Women's 214 (English)	Pittsburgh, PA
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Women's 215 (English)	Lubbock, TX
10/21/2021	10/24/2021	Men's 94 Rescheduled (English)	Evansville, IN
10/21/2021	10/25/2021	Taller -Guía de Rector (Paso a paso) (Spanish)	Kansas City, KS
10/28/2021	10/31/2021	Women's Cursillo (English)	Altoona-Johnstown, PA
10/28/2021	10/31/2021	Women's 28 (Spanish)	Kalamazoo, MI
10/28/2021	10/31/2021	Women's 256 (English)	Green Bay, WI
10/28/2021	10/31/2021	Men's Cursillo (English)	Crookston, MN
10/28/2021	10/31/2021	Men's 173 (Spanish)	Detroit, MI
10/28/2021	10/31/2021	Men's 173 (Spanish)	Detroit, MI

Happy Fall. What do we mean by this? There are so many meanings to this word "fall". We physically fall down, or there is the season of Fall, or when we are sad and our eyes drop and so many more meanings. But what about when we fall in love. What does that mean? Who can we fall in love with? How long does this love last? Falling in love is the development of strong feelings of attachment and love. So, who is the easiest to fall in love with? Who will be there through thick and thin? And who will have an everlasting relationship with you? The answer is - Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. So, take time in prayer to talk with him and "fall in love", maybe even again. Happy Fall!

Blessings,

Jan Stainbrook

Witness

In the June Ark, the question was asked, "What does Cursillo mean to me?" I'm 85 years old now, and I've had a few years to ponder this question.

I made Cursillo #66 in October of 1973. It has been a life changing experience for me and I'm sure for many others. Born, baptized, and raised by a Catholic mother and a Methodist father in Central (rural) Pennsylvania. While in the U.S. Navy, we visited the island of Mallorca on Christmas of 1956. The people there were different. More friendly, it seemed at the time. The reason I mention this is I believe Cursillo was founded there or in that region of Spain by Eduardo Bonin.

To get back to the question, I was always a faithful Catholic. We were fortunate enough to have a Catholic Chaplain on our ship (and a Protestant Chaplain as well). So anyway, I had always been a free-wheeling, happy person, a sinner, as most of us are. God gave us the "free will" of which in today's world, if God ever had any regrets, "free will" may have been one!

I have the belief that being a sponsor for Cursillo is a major responsibility. Frankly (and think about this), you will in many ways be guiding that person's Spiritual life. It starts with Group Reunion after the weekend. This may or should be a lifetime commitment. My sponsor did this for me and I "grew" in many ways because he was committed!

So, in order to answer the original question... If I hadn't accepted Jesus in my life, and the awareness of Him, I would not be sitting here today writing this. DeColores.

And may God ALWAYS be with you.

Don Evans

Women's Closing #284 Information

Dates: October 14 - 17

Location: Our Lady of Consolation Retreat House, Carey, OH

Where to drop off palanca in Carey: A box will be set up behind the Retreat House. Only team and candidates will be allowed inside the Retreat House during the Cursillo.

Holy Hour and Serenade: Saturday, Oct. 16th starting at 8 PM at the Lower Basilica, then processing to the Retreat House. 4th Day, please wear masks in the Lower Basilica. Note that the 4th Day will be OUTSIDE of the Retreat House for the Serenade. Please dress accordingly!

Closing: Sunday, October 17th starting at 5:30 PM in the Lower Basilica. 4th Day, please wear masks.

Secretariat Member openings

Openings effective June, 2021



Pre-Cursillo
Post-Cursillo (4th day)
Hispanic Representative
Communications

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.

