



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.

March 2024

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Our Spiritual Advisor

Ark Spiritual Directors Article

Dear Friends,

In the opening pages of her book, *Field of Compassion*, Judy Cannato recounts an incident that happened a number of years ago on a beach in Cape Cod. Nate Spears, a landscaper, was inspecting a pier when he noticed a 10-foot pilot whale headed toward the shore, and close behind, a second and third whale. He realized they were going to beach themselves. He waded into the water and approached the first whale. The whale's body had several lacerations due to thrashing against the sand. Nate instinctively placed his two hands on the whale and held them there. Gradually, the whale stopped thrashing and became still. Nate then realized that this was his first encounter with a whale and surely the first

time a whale encountered a human being. Each was operating on instinct, yet trusting the other. Nate slowly turned this whale around and in the same manner, the other two, heading them back out to the sea. This encounter between Nate and these whales changed the direction for what was about to happen; his compassion met the whale's receptivity and life was saved.

That story spoke volumes to me and led me to that famous Cursillo saying, "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ." Can you imagine what might have happened if Nate had approached the

whales, yelling, waving his arms or even trying to push those enormous creatures away from the shore? It's easy to imagine what would have happened if Nate had stood by watching the inevitable happen with curiosity or mere sympathy rather than compassion. How did Nate know what to do? A mixture of instinct and compassion; gifts that are part of being human.

Yet some of us still find ourselves hesitating in the face of a situation that needs to be changed, a loved one who is making poor choices and/or a person in need of our support or friendship. "It's none of my business." "I don't want to come across as self-righteous." "He/she may never talk to me again." "I don't know how to start the conversation."



Toledo Cursillo Weekends

Spring

Men--- March 7 - 10

Women-- April 11 - 14

Fall

Men--Sept. 12 - 15

Women--Oct. 17 - 20

Compassion is a divinely given trait that we share, to some degree, with all living creatures. Yes, plants, animals and people are capable of both giving and receiving compassion. We are touched and healed when others show compassion to us and we feel a bit more whole and human when we extend compassion to others. The Latin words are *com passio* and they mean “to suffer with,” or “to feel deeply with.” That’s a clue to beginning an encounter with someone: whether they are consciously suffering or heading in a self-destructive direction. Yelling, scolding, shaming, or applying guilt will not work; these only cause (the whale) to be more disoriented, to resist or to launch forward out of fear, confusion or anger.

Making a friend is natural, instinctual. With a heart of compassion and kindness we reach out to another because we know that being human can be very difficult at times and everyone (including ourselves!) can get discouraged and misdirected. Being a friend means being a steadying presence in another’s life *at least* until they can get reoriented and reassured of their belovedness. Then maybe, by the grace of God, such a friendship may become mutual – but that’s a perk that doesn’t always happen. Bringing that friend to Christ means, at the deepest level, to the freedom, joy, peace, light and love that Christ wants all of us to have.

At times we are Nate and at other times we are that (almost beached) whale. Let’s hold hands through these turbulent times, giving and receiving the compassion that will save us all!

Much love, Sr. Edna



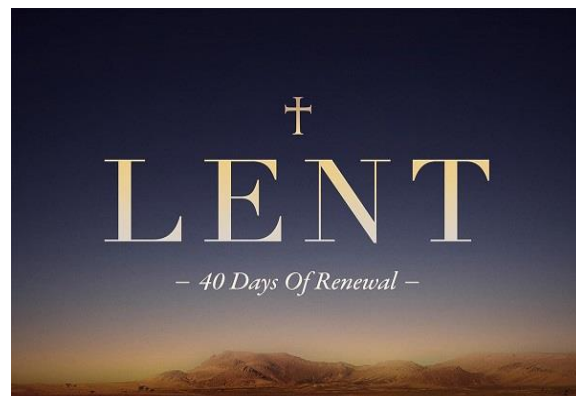
Lay Director

March. Such a month of promise. March brings Daylight Savings Time (March 10th), the official start of Spring (March 19th), and this year, Easter (March 31st). Our days have been lengthening since December 21st, 2023, but somehow the days appear longer as we move closer to Spring with the clock moving forward, giving us more light in the evening. And the increased sunshine certainly adds more joy to each day as well.

How are we looking at this month in terms of our faith? Since March mostly occurs during the season of Lent, how can we tie our feelings of promise with the exterior changes to our days with the interior feelings of promise that we are growing closer to Our Lord during this time also? Do we feel that our hearts are becoming lighter and brighter, that we are inching our way to a more intimate relationship with Jesus?

I am making some progress with my Lenten promise. I try to choose something for Lent that will result in my growing closer to Jesus and more at peace with myself. (Those two things are typically tied together for me.) This year, I’m working on procrastination. Putting things off that might not be my favorite thing to do doesn’t make them go away; I know that. The peace that comes from getting things done far outweighs the fleeting “extra” time I get from not addressing them. Now to actually do that!

This Lent, I am looking to be more methodical about my “to do” list. Taking time with God comes first, and I appreciate all the opportunities I have been given to spend time with Him. This includes surrendering myself to Jesus every day, asking Him to “take care of everything”. From Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Jesus has been very good at helping me to let go of what I can’t control (which is mostly everything). The peace I’ve been finding is helping me to use that newfound energy to address what I can do. I’m making very slow progress, but progress nonetheless. God is so good!



I hope and pray that your Lent is moving forward to a great celebration at Easter, where you can look at your journey during Lent this year as a time of growth in your relationship with Jesus and growth in your understanding of yourself. Haven’t gotten on board with any Lenten resolutions yet? Or are your Lenten resolutions not helping your spiritual growth? There’s no time like the present. What might bring you closer to Jesus this Lent? If you are moved to try something different, why not start today?

Your sister and brother in Christ,
 Kathy Otermat
 John Lyons



Pre-Cursillo

The Men's #293 weekend is March 7 thru 10, 2024 and the Women's #294 is April 11 thru 14, 2024.

Confirmed Candidates

Kevin Mack - St. Joseph, Tiffin	Michael Hinegardner – St. Gerards, Lima
Duane Hoschak – Most Blessed Sacrament, Toledo	George Weirich – St. Peters, Mansfield
Chris Michel – St Peters, Mansfield	Aaron Shaw – St. Peters, Mansfield
Dan Shaferly – All Saints, New Riegel	Mark Abbarno – St. Marys, Blufftob

Men's Team March 7 – 10

John Bonen- Environment/Table Leader	Roger Brickner- Head Disciple	Tim Distel-Security
Jeff Erd-Action	Bro. Dan Hall- Action/Sacrostam	Jeff Hammer-Piety/Table Leader
Mike Kachelek-Sheperd	John Lyons-Troubadour	Joe Manner- Ideal/Shepherd
Troy Peebles-Rector	Dea. Ron Plenzer-Sp. Adv.	Al Raminez-Disciple
Mike Roth-Leaders/Table Leader	Mike Ruhlen-Study/Table Leader	Dea. Tom Soper-Disciple
Scott Theis-Layperson	Jim Vasko-Asst. Rector	John Welch-Head Sheperd
Chris Witt-Disciple	Fr. John Murry-Sp. Advisor	

We have received 2 candidate applications for the **Women's Spring Cursillo #294** that will be held **April 11 thru 14**. Now is the time to send some more our way (with sponsor's applications attached please:).

hkeel@buckeye-express.com 419-476-9347



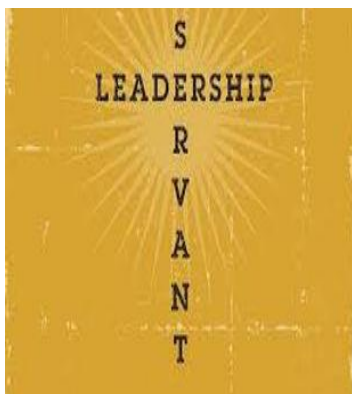
Cursillo

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Our March School of Leaders will take place On March 16th in the teacher's lounge inside St. Michael Parish, Findlay.

Presenting scripture will be Kathy Otermat.

Deacon Denny will take us through pages 81-94 of "Living With Real Presence".

John Lyons will present chapter 4 from "Rescued".

Doors open up around 8-8:30 am. Please bring a snack to share if you are so inclined. We will have coffee, tea and water to drink.

+ Please enter through the office doors. +

Rectors: Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

4th Day / Post Cursillo

Peace and Greetings to you from the Post Cursillo chairpersons. We pray you are all having a blessed and challenging Lent, or as Fr. Jim might say, "Have an excruciating Lent." That means our Lent should be a little painful, such as trying to eliminate a bad habit. Bill is trying to be more patient and less critical with mixed results. Don't give up there is still more Lent to come. Hope you are all planning on attending either the Holy Hour or the Closing or both. The Men's weekend is March 7 - 10. Holy Hour begins at 8pm on March 9th and Closing begins at 4:30pm on March 10th. Both are in the Convent Chapel on the second floor. Enter through the main doors of St. Francis Convent, 200 St. Francis Ave. Tiffin Ohio. Hope to see you all there.

God Bless, 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)

John Walter - mouth cancer surgery, Rae Kistner Hoepf - stroke, Donna - losing her sight, daughter - difficult family situation, Bob Drewior - prayers of thanksgiving, young woman - cervical and lung cancer, young man - addiction & self-esteem issues, cousin - quintuple coronary bypass, uncle - on a ventilator after a surgical procedure, niece - stage 2 bile duct cancer, Tom - heart not working well, Chet - Covid, Katherine - young woman diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Barb Warner - in hospital, respiratory infection, friend - tense work situation, Doug Graham- foot surgery then had antibiotic allergy, friend- Brian needs open heart surgery.

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

Secretariat Member openings

Current opening Facilities

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.



March Ultreya for Area 7 and 10 is March 24th at 7pm, St. Joseph Activity Center in the Upper Room, Tiffin, Ohio.

Due to men's closing, Toledo area 1 and 2 Ultreya in March will not take place on March 10th.

Area 8 March 11 @ St Joseph's in Galion. Activities Center 7pm. All are welcome!



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

