



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 2025

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

Spiritual Advisor	Page 1
Lay Director	Page 2
Pre-Cursillo	Page 3
Cursillo	Page 4
School of Leaders	Page 5
Prayervine	Page 5
Fourth Day	Page 5
Ultreyas	Page 6
Palanca	Page 6
Witness	Page 9
Secretariate Openings	Page 9

Spiritual Advisor

Salvation vs. Sanctification. What is the difference? What is the meaning to us Cursillistas?

Typically, "Salvation" is thought of as being able to achieve salvation or to lose salvation. That is being in a state of grace or being out of a state of grace. To be in a state of grace we are saved and to be in a state of sin we are not saved. But what is the truth of the matter, there is but one salvation and it is salvation to all of humankind. This salvific event has occurred because Jesus the Christ made it occur through him. The salvation event has happened, and it has happened to all humankind. This is what we celebrate at Easter in particular.

If we were to take time to reflect on this event in our human history, we would quickly understand that God, the creator of all humankind, wishes a deep relationship with all of God's creation. The Salvation event has allowed all humankind to participate in a closer,

deeper relationship with the creator. All humankind is invited through the act of salvation in Jesus the Christ.

You may ask then, if everyone is saved, what is there to do? We hear from our protestant brothers and sisters on occasion, "Once saved always saved". In a sense this is true since Jesus sacrificed himself for all of humankind. We, as humans, can't undo salvation. Salvation has happened. From that time of salvation until now, God seeks a deepening relationship with each of us. When we act as God wishes us to act, we deepen our relationship. When we don't act as God wishes us to act, we strain that relationship.

It all about growing in a love relationship with God. This is where sanctification comes into play. God offers to us every opportunity to grow deeper in relationship. This process is what might be termed "Sanctification". We have all heard about Sanctifying Grace. Remember the weekend. Sanctifying Grace is received in the Sacraments of the Catholic Church, Sanctifying Grace is received in the acts of kindness that we participate in throughout our lives. Recognizing the grace that God bestows on us when we work as God would have us work to bring about the deepening of relationship with God to others actually brings us closer in relationship with God.

As Cursillistas we pledge to "Make a Friend" and "Be a Friend" and to "Bring a Friend to Christ". These aren't just words but an action which is Sanctifying. We are called to be the means of Sanctifying Grace.

Sanctifying Grace is the Process of
Opening Ourselves to the Work of the
Holy Spirit

- Restoring
- Imparting
- Perfecting
- Equipping



2025 Weekend Dates

Spring

Women's -- April 10-13

Fall

Men's -- Sept. 4-7

Women's -- Oct. 16-19

So, when we are speaking about others in a disparaging way or treat others in an un-Christ like way, we move ourselves and those who hear us away from a deepening relationship with God.

Ponder this suggestion. If eternity is based solely on our earthly relationship with God, what would our eternity look like? What would our eternity feel like? Heaven vs. Hell could be just that. A close relationship with God or a distant relationship with God. What might your eternity look like and are you bringing this notion of relationship with God to those around you? Watch what you post on Social Media. There is a lot of hate out there on Social Media. Don't be part of hate speech. Jesus didn't speak words of hate, only comfort.

Deacon Tom Soper

St. Catherine of Siena and St. Clement parishes of Toledo

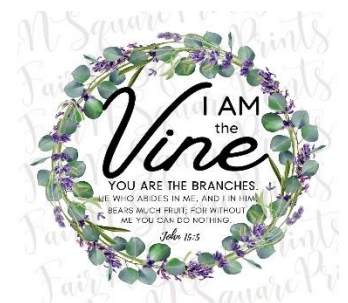


Lay Director

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Now that Spring is officially here (as of March 20th), we're seeing more blue skies, but also the showers that are so much a part of this time of year. For me in my spiritual life, the showers depict the efforts and sacrifices I can choose to make to grow into a more fruitful, joyful follower of Christ. Jesus tells us in John 15:5a-b,11 "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

With more than half of April in the season of Lent this year, I still have time to take advantage of this season to become more fruitful. Just as the Scripture readings now are building up to Palm Sunday and the rest of Holy Week, perhaps we can take advantage of this time to grow a little more in our life with Christ. And, of course, offering prayer and palanca for the upcoming Women's #298 is always an opportunity for growth!



We are blessed in this movement to have methods to help us to become more fruitful. I learn so much from the women that I group with, from new ways to study, deeper ways to pray and surrender, and different approaches to struggles in my life that I have difficulty in understanding and acting upon. And they learn from me, too. We build each other up. Ultreya is another opportunity for fruitfulness. I attended the Tiffin Ultreya recently. What wonderful sharing from men who attended the recent #297, plus those who have lived Cursillo for a long time. I learn so much!

Praying for you as you continue in your efforts to have a fruitful Lent! DeColores!
DeColores & Ultreya

John & Kathy

Pre-Cursillo

Candidates Women's Cursillo #298

<i>Dawn Snyder/St. Marys/ Tiffin</i>	<i>Mindy Lause Holy Family/ N.Baltimore</i>
<i>Joann Palm St. Joseph Crestline</i>	<i>Debbie Marciniak Most Blessed Sacrament Toledo</i>
<i>Tracy Foos St. Marys Helena</i>	<i>Kathy Dandurand St. Joseph Tiffin</i>
<i>Wendy Schimmoeller St Michael Kalida</i>	<i>Kim Dandurand St. Josph Tiffin</i>
<i>Sara Gilbert St. Mary Tiffin</i>	<i>Juana Newberry St. Michael Findlay</i>
<i>Sister Marge Eilerman St. Francis Convent Tiffin</i>	<i>Sarah Lau St. Michael Gibsonburg</i>

We just received the final confirmation on the Women's #298 Candidates. 12 total!

We also received our first Candidate Application for the Women's Fall weekend. (We think this might be a new record for an early application?)

So you can see it's not too early to start working on Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ. And don't forget to send us a Sponsor's application when you send the Candidate app:)

Send them to hkeel@buckeye-express.com or call us at 419-476-9347 if you need help. The blank apps are available to download from the Cursillo 419 website.

DeColores

Helen & Gary Keel
Pre-Cursillo





Cursillo

Hello to all.

We are closing in on the Cursillo #298 weekend for the women. Hopefully all is going well for the team as well as the candidates in their preparation.

Robert and I are continuing to accept applications for the fall weekends so please visit the Ark at Cursillo419.org, download and complete the application if you are interested in working. Men, just coming off Cursillo #297, jump in if you can. Working a weekend is another way to boost your spiritual experience.

If you need help with getting signed up contact Robert

Drewior robertdrewior774@gmail.com and/or dzaborski411@gmail.com.

Our prayer is that all have a blessed and spiritual Lenten season.

Your Brothers In Christ

Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

God Is Good

Womens Team # 298

April 10-13

Lynn Bine Troubadour	Margaret Boltz Professor Piety	Judy Brickner Disciple
Fr. Tom Extejt Spiritual Director	Shirley Fitz Professor Action	Karen Fritsch Security
Dcn. Jerry Gubernath Sp. Director	Jessica Guernsey Prof. Lay Person in church Shepherd	Diane Gutschalk Professor Ideal Troubadour
Marilyn Heitkamp Sacristan	Marilyn Hinegardner Professor Study	Sue Hohenbrink Prof. Christianity in Action Shepherd
Helen Keel Disciple	Mary Lyons Head Shepherd	Carol Martinez Head Disciple
Angie Mehling Asst. Rector	Kathy Otermat Disciple	Judy Owens Prof. Study of Environment
Debbie Santini Prof. Leaders /Shepherd	Barb Stager Rector	Chrissy Vasko Disciple

School of Leaders

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Hello to all my Cursillo family!

Now that we are officially into the spring season, I ask what is your favorite part of spring?

Easter is always a part of it for me, certainly, but the warmer days, more sunshine, blooming flowers, and gardening are all pretty high on my list, too. New life!

It's all around us. Just as our first lived Cursillo weekend brought us to new life by deepening our faith, so too, the ongoing opportunities can keep us growing!

Take advantage of them whenever you can. And invite others to share in your faith journey through Cursillo. Together we are all stronger than any of us can be alone.

I am excited to announce to you that Shirley Fitz has accepted the role of rector for School of Leaders! I've known her for quite a few years and her depth of faith along with her strong leadership abilities and thirst for learning will serve our Cursillo community well. Walter will be assisting her with meetings and such during the transition.

Our next School of Leaders will be Saturday, April 26 (note this is the 4th Sat due to Holy Week) from 9 AM-noon at Findlay St. Michaels.

Doors open at 8:30. We will be in the Marian room which is the first door to the right just off the entrance hallway in your right.

Roger Brickner will share the scripture and reflection.

Deacon Ron Plenzler will present pp49-65 from "What Nobody Ever Told Us".

John Lyons will cover chapter 16 from "Rescued".

We will have the coffee on and the welcoming hugs at the ready!

Bring a snack to share and bring a friend or just bring you!

Blessings and Hugs,

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

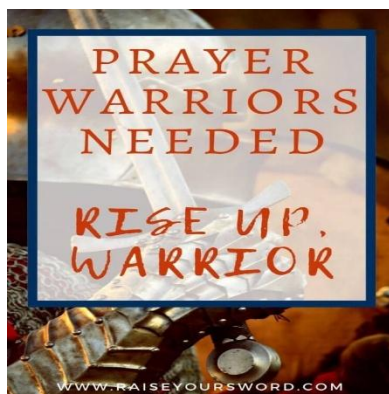
Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Shirley Fitz safrnccrn@hotmail.com

Fourth Day

DeColores!

Happy Spring to everyone! As we get closer to Easter, we can't help but pray for all of you. The Women's Cursillo will be here before Easter. Thank you to Deacon Andy and Judy Ruhlen for answering the call to help with the Holy Hour on April 12th and Jenny Theis for helping with the Closing on April 13th. The Holy Hour starts at 8pm and we ask that you arrive a little earlier so we can begin on time. The **Closing starts at 4:30**, so if you can arrive around 4pm, we'll be ready as soon as the team and candidates arrive. Enter through the south Portical doors and use either the stairs or the elevator to get to the Chapel. Hope to see many of you to support the new Cursillistas. May you all have a blessed and joyous Easter! Prayers and Blessings to all. Becky Smeltz, Bill and Betty Obringer



Prayer request for the month:

Steve Majer - passed away, candidates of #297, Walker Damon - passed away, Paul Cook - in hospital, friend - alcoholism, family member - prostate cancer, team and candidates of Cursillo #298, Pat Miller's family - health issues, Laurie - health issue.

Also, if there is any Cursillista who is not receiving the prayer vine emails and would like to, please send a request to prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.

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, Fremont and New Riegel area Ultreya on April 27th at 7pm in the Upper Room of St. Joseph Activity Center.

Area 8 -- April Ultreya will be held on April 14, 2025 at St Joseph's Activity Center in Galion from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.



Hello dear Cursillo family!

As we approach the April Cursillo weekends happening all around the globe, we reach out with open hearts to ask for your support in the form of Palanca — those prayers, letters, and acts of kindness that lift up our candidates and teams during their spiritual journey.

Whether you're a longtime Cursillista or new to the community, your Palanca can make a difference. This powerful practice is not only a gift to those on the weekends but also strengthens the bonds of our Cursillo family worldwide.

We invite you to send prayers, letters, or any other form of encouragement to our candidates and team members. Your Palanca will remind them that they are surrounded by a loving, praying community, supporting them every step of the way.

Let's come together and shower these weekends with Palanca, helping candidates and teams everywhere experience God's love and grace in a deeper way. Whether you're near or far, your prayers and kind words can make a world of difference!

Thank you for your love, support, and prayers. Let's make these April weekends an unforgettable experience for all involved!

In Christ's love, Bob & Alicia Swartzmiller

4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Men's 131 (English)	Altoona-Johnstown, PA	marymolnar4@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's 119 (English)	Covington, KY	debby@cranley.net
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's Cursillo (English)	Crookston, MN	crookstoncursillo@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's Cursillo (English)	Fort Worth, Texas	ntexascursillo@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's 688 (Spanish)	Houston, TX	palancashouston@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's Cursillo (English)	Los Angeles, CA	cursillo.la@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Men's 336 (Spanish-English)	Mayaguez, PR	hajimenez1@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's 106 (English)	Oregon, IL	rkfdcursillopalanca@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's 106 (English)	Rockford, IL	vscull58@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Men's Cursillo (English)	San Jose, CA	sanjosepalancaletters@gmail.com
4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Men's 72 (English)	Spokane, WA	njam52@hotmail.com

4/3/2025	4/6/2025	Women's 132 (Hungarian)	Zalaegerszeg, Hungary	sztmarton.titkarsag@gmail.com
4/10/2025	4/13/2025	Women's 86 (English)	Laredo, TX	myrthala.cursillolaredo@gmail.com
4/10/2025	4/13/2025	Men's 723 (English)	Orange, CA	palanca@occursillo.org
4/10/2025	4/13/2025	Women's 73 (English)	Spokane, WA	njam52@hotmail.com
4/10/2025	4/13/2025	Women's 298 (English)	Toledo, OH	cursillo419palanca@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 132 (English)	Altoona-Johnstown, PA	marymolnar4@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Men's 232 (English)	Cincinnati, OH	Wsallen4444@yahoo.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 484 (Spanish)	Dallas, TX	dianabergara5@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 422 (English)	Detroit, MI	detroitpalanca@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Dodge City, KS	guillej16@hotmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Men's 147 (Spanish)	Fayetteville, NC	darbasilio79@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 2 (English)	Kecskemét, Hungary	reka@ulicsak.hu
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Knoxville, TN	juan8533@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 264 (Spanish)	Laredo, TX	sanjosehomehealth@hotmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 122 (English)	Little Rock AR	moixfam@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 1070 (Filipino)	Los Angeles, CA	angiedimacali@gmail.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Men's 327 (English)	Manchester, NH	Palanca@nhcursillo.org

4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Men's 182 (English)	Milwaukee, WI	milwcursillo.palanca@outlook.com
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 724 (English)	Orange, CA	palanca@occursillo.org
4/24/2025	4/27/2025	Women's 149 (English)	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	john.sullivan.1993@gmail.com

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—

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.