



# 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.

## February 2025

Application Forms are on the Website:

[www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org)

<b>Spiritual Advisor</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Lay Director</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Pre-Cursillo</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Cursillo</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>School of Leaders</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Prayervine</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Fourth Day</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Ultreyas</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Palanca</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Witness</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Secretariate Openings</b>	<b>Page 8</b>

## Spiritual Advisor

Dear Sister and Brother Cursillistas,

As I'm writing this, it is COLD outside, but to greet you all is a warm experience. I really treasure our Cursillo Movement in my life. Probably many of you know that I lived my weekend a month after I was ordained in 1969. Fr. Charlie Ritter got me to Toledo Cursillo #16, and it's been a favored continuing gift in my life! I added it to being a Knight of Columbus which started for me through my dad and was affirmed while in seminary, and it has taught me how precious sharing faith in close and intense company with friends helps me be the kind of person who can know, love and bring friends to Christ.

Our January 2025 ARK has affirmed and deepened in me the value of being able to ponder and even meditate on our faith as we start a new year in our lives. 2025 brings to mind 12/25/25 this coming Christmas – so I'm tuned in to a deeper way to meditate on my faith in the person of Jesus and The Body of Christ that we are in our families and parishes = our Church! I'm trying to follow up on Deacon Jerry's beautiful sharing last month on how deep and precious our faith can be as we really let it be central to our lives and not just something we "get to do." When we have that meditative blessing all and every day, we actually become great instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit to build up, treasure and share the grace that flows to and through us for a better world.....

## 2025 Weekend Dates

Spring @ Tiffin Spirituality Center

Men's --- March 6-9

Women's -- April 10-13

Fall @ The Pines, Fremont

Men's -- Sept. 4-7

Women's-- Oct. 2-5

Our present political situation (along with the information that currently only about 20% of baptized Catholics are present at Mass on Sundays) gives us the call to ponder who we can be in a nation (or world) that is conflicted in the human condition alone. The Faith and Hope and Love that we share in Christ are so needed, they can't be only thought about, mentioned and sometimes struggled with. They need to be lived! They need to be prayed about, shared through invitations of companionship, pondered together (as well as individually), trusted, affirmed and joyfully celebrated as the Holy Spirit will lead us to and we can REJOICE IN. Read the Bible daily (at least a little) and try to do that with others as the Spirit gives you chances!

So, let's get a bunch of guys and gals to the coming weekends where and when all this faith can be taught, enthused, shared and celebrated – and the Spirit thanked for....!

De Colores & Happy Valentine's Day!

*Fr Skíp*



## Lay Director

Friends, as cold weather holds on, I am warmed by the love that I see in my brothers and sisters in Christ. As St John said, "We love because He loved us first". How appropriate for the month of February. The time to warm our hearts and minds. To remember that Christ loved us first. If it weren't for His love, His coming to earth to save us by dying on the cross, we would be lost! Very lost!! I can't imagine my life without you, my brothers and sisters. Although I do remember my life before Cursillo. It wasn't a good life. It was dark and lonely. But now that I know of Christ's love for me, my life is much brighter. Even when the days are hard to live, to go through. I know His love surrounds me! And I see it in your lives. I invite you to read and reflect on 1John 4. The entire chapter is 21 verses long and talks about love. It will warm your heart.

How do we get to love all our brothers and sisters? Yes, even the ones that rub us the wrong way every time we meet. I think by remembering that God loved us first. And what does that love look like?

Forgiveness of my sins (70 X 7), that is a huge start. We hear that every time we pray the Lord's prayer; and forgive us *as we forgive those who have hurt us*. I don't know about you, but sometimes that hurts!

OUCH! God says He will forgive me IF I forgive the guy that keeps aggravating me at work with his demeaning jokes or foul language. Or the gal that always

talks above me and knows how to do it better. I'm sure you all have a person or two in mind. So, the real question is "What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?" (Romans 8:35). What does keep us from the love of God? I think in all honesty, it is our selfishness. Our pride. Our wanting to be in control. When I want to have the last word and make things turn out how I planned. And then I hear God say, do it with love. I know then that the ending has to change. My version of the story has to be different; done in and with love.



Let's end with Romans 8:38&39. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

DeColores & Ultreya

John & Kathy

"If you do not live what you believe, you will end up believing what you live."

—Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

## Pre-Cursillo

We know the weather doesn't feel like it and it's been snow instead of flowers but the Spring weekends are fast approaching.

We have received one application so far for the Women's weekend. (Come on guys - don't all wait until the last minute:).

The Men's #297 weekend is March 6 thru 9 and the Women's #298 is April 10 thru 13, 2025.

Looking forward to receiving more candidate (and Sponsor's:) applications. It's not too late to Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ.

Send them to [hkeel@buckeye-express.com](mailto:hkeel@buckeye-express.com) or call us at 419-476-9347 if you need help.

DeColores  
Helen & Gary Keel  
Pre-Cursillo



## Cursillo

### Accepting Team applications for upcoming Cursillo Dates

*@ The Pines , Fremont Ohio*

*Men's - September 4-7    and    Women's in October 2-5*

Robert Drewior([robertdrewior774@gmail.com](mailto:robertdrewior774@gmail.com)) Dave Zaborski ([dzaborski411@gmail.com](mailto:dzaborski411@gmail.com)).

**Please put in Subject Line Team Application**

Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

## School of Leaders

Warm winter greetings to all my Cursillo family!

We are in the middle of winter these days, and I'll admit I don't like the cold. And I don't care for so much darkness, either. So let's look for what's good within it.

(Just like the meme that says if you complain about the snow you'll have just as much snow but you'll be miserable or you can celebrate it and be happy)!

First of all, I notice the lights look brighter when it is dark. Then I notice the sunrises and sunsets have been spectacular this month with all the snow and ice giving us a different perspective. I've seen some at my house and many on the internet.

I have to admit the extra hours of darkness help me see the sunrises because I'm already awake!

Jesus is the Light of the world and He came to shine light in the darkness with His message of Love, mercy, healing, forgiveness, and hope. And of course, we all know we are called to live out this message, each in our own little corners of the world!

We are "already awake" to see the light through our baptism and Cursillo opens our eyes in new ways to better understand and appreciate that, too.

I urge you to use the many methods we have to continue to stay awake and growing so you can be a light to others through regular grouping, Ultreyas, school of leaders, closings, Holy Hours, and of course, working a team whenever you can.

If you have been away for a while, know that you are always welcome to any of these things. Let's keep the fires burning so we can be awake to the beauty and goodness around us; ready to dispel the darkness and BE the light! Then share that light with everyone around you and look for those in your path who could benefit from living a Cursillo weekend and invite (sponsor) them to come.

School of Leaders next meets on Saturday, February 15  
at St Michaels in Findlay from 9-11 AM. (Doors open at 8:30)

We will be in the Marian room. Turn right at the first hallway. It's the first room on the right.

John Bonen will do the Scripture and reflection.

Sr. Edna will present the beginning of the Mass through the collect, (p.14-33) from the book, "What Nobody Ever Told Us".

John Lyons will present chapter 14, (p. 138-142) from "Rescued".

We will have extra copies of the new book for \$6.00 each.

We always have a great time sharing, singing, and discussing. You don't need to have been to all the meetings to benefit from School of Leaders. Come when you can. You'll be glad you did!

Bring a snack to share and bring a friend if you want!

Blessings and Hugs,

Annie Blum

[annieblum516@gmail.com](mailto:annieblum516@gmail.com)

Walter Beckford

[wbeckford@bex.net](mailto:wbeckford@bex.net)



## Prayer Vine

Prayers requests for the month

Sick baby in Florida, Laurie - starting new job, woman - job searching, Baby Nikolai - kidney surgery, husband of friend - health issues, Adriana - virus, in hospital, Heidi - possible food poisoning, niece - struggling with recovery after sinus surgery, Judy - biopsy, Ledesma family - health issues, Howie Stultz - in hospital, niece - divorce hearing

## Fourth Day

This year is moving along quickly. Before you know it, the Men's Cursillo weekend on March 6-9 will be upon us. We will soon be contacting people to give witness at the Holy Hour and the Closing and asking for a Deacon to lead us in prayer at the Saturday Holy Hour. Don't forget to ask people to be candidates and do Palanca for the success of our work for Christ. Please contact us if you would like to help with being a witness or Deacon. You are all in our daily prayers. Becky Smeltz, Bill and Betty Obringer

## ***Area Ultreya's***

**Area 2** Ultreyas are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, 2-3 p.m. Jaeger Hall, St. Clements church,

**Area 7 & 10 Tiffin Area :** Ultreya for Tiffin and Seneca County area will be Sunday, Feb. 23 at 7pm in the Activity Center at St. Joseph Church.

**Area 8** Area 8 February Ultreya will be held on February 10, 2025 at Holy Trinity in Bucyrus from 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.  
All are welcome.



# PALANCA

Hello fellow 4th dayers,

We hope this finds you well, listed below are the upcoming Cursillo events going on around the globe. You're most welcome to share what types of palanca you are doing and we will pass that along, you can email [cursillo419palanca@gmail.com](mailto:cursillo419palanca@gmail.com)

God Bless and Peace and All Good.

2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Men's 63 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Men's #434	San Antonio Tx
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Cursillo de Hombres # 210	Rockville Centre, NY
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Women's 721	Orange, CA



2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Men's 434	San Antonio TX
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Men's #276	Lansing, MI
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Men's 391 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Men's #234	NY
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Womans 105th weekend H	
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Men's 236	Buffalo, NY
2025-02-14	2025-02-16	Men's 46	Outaouais, QC
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Men's #120	Diocese of Nashville, TN
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	CURSILLO 610 DE HOMBRES DEL 13 AL 16 FEBRERO DE 2025	JALISCO
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Cursillo de Hombres #293	Arquidiocesis de Miami, FL
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Men's 8 (Spanish)	Joliet, IL
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's Cursillo	Richmond, VA
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 92 (English)	Rochester, NY
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's Cursillo (English)	Richmond, VA
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 61 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL

2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 392 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
------------	------------	-----------------------	----------------------------

## Witness:

*to share how God is working in your life email to – [judbrick616@gmail.com](mailto:judbrick616@gmail.com)*

## Current openings on Secretariat

*For your information and reflection -- there are several positions on Secretariat that will be opening for replacements—*

### School of Leaders

*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](http://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](http://www.cursillo419.org) Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.