

Cursillo 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.

August 2020

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

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am thinking of Nat King Cole's song: "Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!" If it were ever true when that song first came out, it is surely true in a vastly different way in summer 2020! Many of us are staying close to home - "staycations" because of the pandemic; many more of us are staying indoors because of the extreme heat we have been having these last several weeks. I hope that you have gotten some needed rest, and I hope that you are using these opportunities to keep up the prayer, study, and action we all committed ourselves to for healthy spiritual growth.

I would like to share with you some of my study. The sources I have been using are the people I have spoken to, the webinars I've taken part in, the articles I've read and taking my own internal spiritual temperature. In all of those places the topics of anger, frustration, discouragement, weariness, impatience, sadness and grief have surfaced, for several reasons: the ongoing pandemic with no end in sight, the racial injustice that continues to plague our culture, the political polarization that we witness, the debate between the physical and economic health of our nation, etc. We who are deeply involved in faith communities must wonder how this pandemic will affect the future of Mass attendance and so much more that was a "normal" part of parish life.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Weekends are postponed until Spring 2021

**Please share how
Christ is working in
your life.**

**Email
Nancy Cook at
nancy750@bex.net**

How do we respond to all this? With prayer, certainly, but with study as well. One of the webinars I signed up for was one on anger by Kathleen Caventy who focused primarily on American Catholic anger. She points out that anger has been growing in the Church alongside political anger: liberals and conservatives facing off, and the disillusionment Catholics feel when even religious leaders take clear political sides instead of preaching the Gospel (which is aligned to neither party).

She names four types of anger: Interpersonal anger is beneficial when it leads to compromise, creativity and a release of constructive energy. Social anger engages moral outrage over an injustice that needs to be corrected and provides the energy and numbers to make that happen. However, a third kind of anger is revenge anger that is directed toward individuals or groups that we want to demonize; it is an urge in us to destroy the other, either physically, emotionally, or reputationally. (How do we catch ourselves before our anger becomes destructive?) A fourth type of anger is prophetic anger. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Jesus and others cajoled their people about not living up to the Covenant. Their purpose was to awaken their community to its sinfulness so that they might repent. But prophets stood **with** their people, not **over** them. They shared the people's sadness and consequences of poor choices.

In recent weeks we have clear evidence that even righteous anger can divide a community, because it necessarily involves judgment and punishment. So, what are we to do? Kathleen suggests that we turn to a biblical form of prayer that may be new to many of us: lamentation. For example: we agree that sexual abuse is wrong, but we do not agree on what to do about it. We want things to be whole; we want the murderer punished (but not his mother). Because of the quarantine, we Catholics mourn the loss of a religious symbolic world that has sustained us but do not know (really) how to be in communion, in community during this time. We have our opinions, but they differ, and can sometimes even divide us further.

The author suggests that the way to find common ground is through lamentation: to mourn the losses we have experienced. We may have different opinions about what to do, but we share the losses. That is what lamentation focuses on: not the wrongdoing, but the loss(es). Lamentation is a spontaneous response to our communal brokenness. It helps us look at the loss(es) together. Its immediate focus is not on fixing the situation but seeing the victim and listening - to all sides- again and again. Lamentation allows for our restlessness, reminds us that we cannot rush away from what we see - that would be defeatist.

Lamentation is finally also hope. Its focus is on the recovery of the victim. It urges us not to rush to quick resolutions (which may be controversial and divisive), but to stand together as one and notice and feel the pain of the situation. Yes, we are brought low, we cannot see our way through so many things, but in the acknowledgement of our own brokenness and limitations, we look beyond ourselves. As Lamentations 3:21-23 says so beautifully: "But I will call this to mind as my reason to have hope: the favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent. They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul; therefore, I will hope in him."

Indeed, these are hazy, crazy days. But the favors of the Lord are not exhausted. If we can stand together in the pain, we will be led eventually on the path to healing which God offers - when we are all ready to receive it.

De Colores, Hopeful Ones!
Sr. Edna Michel



Lay Director

(Each month one of our Lay Director's will write an article)

Plans. So, we all have plans. Plans for getting married. Maybe raising a family. Maybe getting an education for a great paying job. There is saving up money for a car or a house or a boat or a farm. Lots to plan for. Lots of different endeavors to plan for.

I heard God laughing the other day...again!! I told Him my plans. They say if you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plans. Jeremiah 29:11. "Know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper, not to hurt you." Sometimes our plans are not God's plans, or His plans are not ours.

Have your plans turned out the way you thought they would? Mine haven't. Some totally missed the boat. Others turned out much better than I thought, Thanks be to God! As I have learned through Cursillo, put God on the front seat of the tandem bicycle, not the back seat, and let Him steer (guide) your path. There will be lots of hills and valleys. With many twists and turns. And if you are so concerned with staying on the road you will miss the view! That is why we should sit on the back seat and let God steer while we pedal.

This past weekend, July 24 & 25, was the National Cursillo Encounter.... Virtual style!!! While it was not the event that was being planned by National Secretariat, God did see it through, even with some technical difficulties. Some points to share with you:

- Cursillo is not a one-time event but an ongoing personal daily encounter with Christ.
- An isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian.
- Use the classroom of silence to "hear" God. He wants to talk to you! He loves YOU.
- Leaders don't impose; they propose.
- Don't stand out as a leader, stand firm in your faith.
- Our desire to know and love God increases our ability to hold more of Jesus.
- Our personal encounter with Christ doesn't get any more personal than taking the body and blood of Jesus into our bodies.

In the end, all that God asks of us is to trust Him....and pedal!!

DeColores

John Lyons

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

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Pre-Cursillo

Here we are in August already. I don't need to tell you that it has been an interesting year so far. I don't think we could have ever imagined all that we have experienced to this point.

As I have prayed and reflected on what to write this month, I go back to a recent homily that our pastor gave. His basic message was that no matter what we think about having to wear a mask, it comes down to one point: obedience. Just like in so many things, we obey the laws of our country, whether we like them or not, for greater good of all. Whatever your thoughts about wearing a mask, it is for the greater good of all. I would like to propose another thought that came to me as I reflected on his homily: wearing a mask is palanca. Palanca is the giving of ourselves, in prayer and action, for others. Let's take this opportunity to do palanca when wearing a mask for all those suffering from Covid 19, and their families, as well as for the Cursillo movement, and God willing, our spring weekends.

Please continue to make those contacts for candidates for the spring weekends. We don't have specific dates at this time, but will let you know once they are set. If you have candidate applications, please be sure to send them in.

Hope you have a great August. As our pastor likes to tell us: Stay healthy, stay holy, stay hopeful.

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

From the Cursillo Chair....

Dear Friends,

August is here, and the Summer has flown away. Summer is my favorite season -- even in the heat.

But a huge THANK GOD for air conditioning. Until we are clear on when we will be having our next Cursillos, we are kind of in a holding pattern. Once we begin again, however, we will be in great need of people who want to offer their gifts by working on a team. We are happy to take your information any time if you feel the nudge to serving God as a team member. Contact us any time.

This is a difficult time for many.

Our prayers are with each of you everyday.

The Huffman's



School of Leaders...

Laughter, Excitement. God is a God of Joy. And if you are heading into a church that's exactly what you should hope to find--joy, laughter, excitement.

Way too often we don't find that--at least in the faces of some of His would-be followers gathered within the walls of some of our places of worship, or houses of God. Christians can be some of the most dour people on the planet. We claim to be different, but too often we look as joyless as if we were unbelievers. We claim to be called to serve the God who is the architect of the beauty all around us; yet we act and appear at times as if we have nothing to wake up to. I don't think others would find it attractive or appealing to be part of that setting.

Here's the saddest part of the whole thing; it doesn't have to happen. Times (like now) can get tough. But as followers of and believers in Jesus Christ (if we have asked Him into our life) we have the joy and hope of the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings in our lives. A joy that can overcome whatever we face. A joy that leads us into all the fullness of our future with Him in eternity.

Let it out! Let the joy out! Let the source of your joy--Jesus Christ--shine through you to the world around you. Let the joy, love, and power of the God of the universe flow through you so that others see a twinkle in your eyes, a smile on your face, and laughter in your voice. Then they will see Him! And He is the one they will be attracted to! Consider yourself a PR person for Jesus. Your joy should be contagious and irresistible to those around you. Find the people who want to share God's joy with others and start a new epidemic.

Our next School of Leaders will be held August 15 @ 9:00 AM. We will again be using Zoom technology for our meeting. Invitations will be sent to those requesting to attend. Send your request to karenbonen@yahoo.com before August 13 (Thursday). We will need your email address with your request please. As before we will have grouping during the meeting, so we need to know how many people will be attending. If you are a couple using one device (computer or I-pad) you will have to group together.

Presenters: Scripture reading and reflection - John Bonen
Spiritual Adviser - Sr. Pat Meyer, Chapter 12 The Joy of Discipleship
Lay presentation - Kathy Otermat

Hope to see you there.
May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in each of you.

God Bless
John & Karen Bonen, Rectors
Team (Carol & George Miller, Joan Alge, Sharon DeCant)

The next book selection for School of Leaders will be "His Way" by David Knight. Please order your book from Amazon or through the Cursillo National Website: www.natl-cursillo.org

Fourth Day



PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR THE PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. **We entrust ourselves to you**, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. **Help us, Mother of Divine Love**, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and **deliver us from every danger**, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Prayer by Pope Francis

dosp.org

Your Fourth Day Team,
Karen and John Reinhart
Luanne and John Welch

Prayervine:

Myla - leukemia, Steve Schoen's sister - Covid 19, daughter of a cousin - esophageal cancer, Mike - malignant mass in left lung, Sr. Deb Huss - broken leg, sister-in-law - surgery, Cole - police officer having doubts about being an officer, National Cursillo Conference, Fr. Homrich - Covid, Toby - Covid, friend - heart attack.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.

Palanca Requests...

Many of the Cursillos for the past few months have been cancelled due to the coronavirus. Please pray for all those affected by this pandemic- physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. And pray for wisdom, understanding, patience, and health.

Ultreya

IN KEEPING WITH TOLEDO DIOCESE Reopening Policies- ALL ULTREYA'S ARE CANCELLED THIS MONTH

'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!!'

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.



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