

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.

April 2020

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 4
Fourth Day	Page 5
Prayers	Page 6
Palanca	Page 7
Ultreyas	Page 7

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends 2020

English Men – Sept. 2020

Spanish Men – Fall 2020

Spanish Women - Fall 2020

English Women #284 October, 2020

Please share how
Christ is working in
your life.

Email
Nancy Cook at nancy750@bex.net

Dear Family of God, People of the Many Colors,

What a time we are living through! We awake each morning to hear the latest statistics of COVID 19 and brace ourselves for where the next confirmed case will be. Our prayer life struggles to keep our fears in check. but we **do** pray, often and with great earnestness. Never since I was eight years old have, I gone this long without being fed at the Eucharistic table. Never would have I guessed when I first learned of a new virus in a country half-way around the world that we would be so affected by it these months later. All of us have had to let go of events, schedules, traditions that we've been looking forward to, from March Madness to the Olympics, to commencement exercises to hugs and handshakes to daily communion to Holy Week liturgies... and the list goes on.

In the midst of all this letting go, being adaptable and letting go of my preferred way of living, I was asked to give a live Face Book reflection on finding gratitude in the midst of adversity. Whew!! But actually, it didn't take me too long to make the connection, for I discovered that the most heartfelt gratitude grows out of adversity, out of experiencing 'up close' just how vulnerable, limited and lacking in control we really are. Yes, it means facing our mortality, like it or not. Only conscious human beings realize this and that's why only we can have this depth of gratitude.

I lose my wallet and a stranger finds it and returns it to me whole and entire. I have cataract surgery and am amazed by the brilliance of colors I can now see. I have a stroke and now I can talk and walk again. I lose my home in a fire, but all my family members are safe. Adversity gives me perspective and then deepest gratitude has a chance to bloom. We experience life differently after experiences like this; priorities are more likely to get adjusted; we become more mindful of what we have than what we don't have.

I've never been one to praise and thank God when adversity hits, but I can be grateful that there is a faithful God to hang on to, or who hangs on to me/us and who promises that all the emptying we are experiencing now will carve the space for far more precious and lasting treasures – the intangible ones that, if we're honest, are the ones we are really longing for.

Holy Week and Easter will be much different this year, but maybe even more profound as sorrow and loss mixes with the Hope upon which we build our lives – not wishful thinking, but the solid conviction that our God is with us.

Here are a few suggestions for these last weeks of Lent: 1) notice who and what surrounds you: people, crocuses and daffodils, colors and fragrances and ponder their simple beauty; 2) divide a sheet of paper into sections and assign one decade of your life to each section. In that section name the people who were significant to you in those years, special events, questions you had then, and learnings you acquired. 3) List the new appreciations you have acquired just since the outbreak of the corona virus. My guess is that with any one of these you will touch into your human capacity to experience heartfelt gratitude. Do have a blessed, meaningful Easter!

Love and ongoing prayers,
Sr. Edna



Lay Director

Sisters and Brothers in our Jesus:

From the Gospel of John 16:31b-33a "...Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his (her) own home and you will leave me alone. But I AM not alone, because the Father is with Me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in Me." and John 14:26-27 "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in My name – He will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

We share uncertainties, yet we share Jesus. We may have a bit of trepidation or even fear; still we have the Holy Spirit. We may suffer loss or witness friends being afflicted, but the Father reigns. All of this is before us, in the fog of the current pandemic, and it penetrates the spirit like a cold shroud in the dark. It is okay to visit this place, but do not dwell there, because you are His adopted and paid for children. This is the time to reach out in the very best ways you can. Cursillo sisters and brothers have the same heart of Jesus and Mary that you possess. Share this heart ... share your heart, "a decade of the Rosary a day" for not just the Cursillo, but also for all that is before us that we don't yet know ... but the Father knows. Jesus gives peace – accept the gift.

Now business –The Spanish Men's 282, Spanish Lady's 283 and English Lady's 284 have been postponed. All should be rescheduled for the Fall and the hope is that the Teams can carry forward with as many members as can make the rescheduling. I am lovingly touched with gratitude and excitement for the blessings of the English Men's 281. This was the last event at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, before the "shut down" ... a great Body of Christ Team and 17 Candidates lived a grace-filled, Spirit-inspired 3 Days. My personal thought is that the Lord is telling us to go, grow and thrive through this challenge as there is much for us to do when "normal" is set loose.

Prayers please for the Secretariat, (we are meeting using ZOOM) there are multiple challenges and questions to be addressed. There are three positions coming open at the end of July – Lay Director (me), School of Leaders (Karen & John Bonen) and Facilities (Amy & Phil Hoffman), if you feel called to serve – pray and share and let us know.

Easter is coming ... embrace your life, embrace your salvation; embrace your Savior!

...Ultreya!

De Colores!!!
Tim Haney

Pre-Cursillo

Last month I wrote about the ‘Wow! Just wow!’ moment of having so many men make the weekend. Who knew that just a few short weeks later, I would write the same ‘wow, just wow’ again Only this time it is with deep sadness I write this as it is not a happy ‘wow, just wow’!

Who would have thought that by the end of the men’s weekend, we would be asked to stay at home, schools and nursing homes would be closed to the public, many businesses would be closed, and the biggest, and hardest of all, no church: no masses, no Holy Week or Easter services, and most of all, no Eucharist! But what are we doing about it? Oh, so much!

Parishes are becoming creative to engage their parishioners, and the wider world. Our priests are televising their daily masses; Lenten services such as Stations of the Cross, the rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplets are also being televised. Pastors are engaging even their youngest parishioners (and some of us older ones too) with Bible stories and teachings. Holy Week and Easter services will be televised. My parish is also televising a faith based exercise class twice a week. We are being church. We are reaching out to others. We are praying more. Social distancing has brought us closer than ever. We are being fed body, mind, and soul.

Isn’t that what we are about as Cursillo, bringing Christ to the world.

On a happier note, we have 8 new candidate applications for the women. These will be held until the fall. As you have applications ready to go, whether it be for the men’s or the women’s weekends, please go ahead and send them in. Let’s continue what we saw happen for the men’s weekend with a full house of candidates.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a blessed and Happy Easter!

MaryAnn Hohman
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson
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Make a Friend – Be A Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ

From the Cursillo Chair....

It appears that our Lord has given us an opportunity to slow down, stay home and "Be still and know that He is God." We are praying for you every day and begging Jesus to keep each of you safe and well. As the 3 remaining Spring Cursillos are on hold until the Fall of 2020, it seems kind of silly to be asking you to consider working the following weekends whenever they are. But keep it on your mind and in your prayers. Then let us know so we can sign you up.

Please pray for the teams presently in place and on hold. Pray for the candidates the Holy Spirit is sending us.

Spring is about to burst forth from the ground. Easter will be here to remind us of Jesus bursting forth from the grave

Love and prayers,
The Huffmans



School of Leaders...

An appropriate quote for us all from Dr. Amy Acton, Ohio DOH "Life is not shutting us down, it is waking us up. This is not pulling us apart, it is pulling us together. This is our moment in time. I am not fearful, I am determined."

What a difference a week can make. Well now, what a difference a day can make. So many things that we take for granted have been taken away from us. Some very basic things, such as attending Mass every Sunday morning, eating out at a restaurant, going to a movie, etc. We all know that these measures are for our safety, but it does not make it less difficult to be without these activities in our lives that bring us joy. One positive thing we can take from these difficult times is how much we need to depend on God. All the people and things we value and hold dear in our lives can be taken away from us, but God's love can never be taken away. His love is unconditional and always present in every situation.

I'm certain that none of us thought we would have to give up so much during Lent. Take more time to pray and ask God to help us carry the cross that we bear at this time. It is times like this, when we realize that we are not in control of what happens to us. Therefore, we go to our Creator and ask Him to help us bear the burden of this uncertain and difficult time. This is truly a test of our faith.

"Tough times don't last, but tough people do." Let us ask the Lord to make us tough with His grace, love and mercy.

Our next School of Leaders meeting is scheduled for April 18th, 9:00 AM. Due to the "Stay At Home" orders we will be having our School of Leaders meeting using ZOOM. More details to follow closer to School of Leaders date via Prayer Vine and Facebook.

Joan Alge will be doing Bible reading with reflection. Fr. Jim Brown will be giving the Spiritual Advisor's presentation covering chapter 9 of The Joy of Discipleship, and Sharon DeCant will cover chapter 7 of Perfectly Yourself for our Lay presentation. Our March School of Leaders meeting was cancelled and we are grateful that our presenters have all agreed to do their presentations this month.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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

FOURTH DAY

Hey Cursillistas,

Has the Corona virus changed your daily life. Do you have more time on your hands? Do you wonder what to do or feel bored? Your fourth day team has had these thoughts too. So, we talked about somethings that might connect us and give us a feeling of community. May we make a few suggestions?

How about calling a Cursillista that you have not spoken too in a while?

A call to a Cursillista in a nursing home or rehabilitation center that can't have family visit.

Have you missed someone from your reunion group?

Wondered where a friend you have not seen at Ultreya.

A Cursillista that you worked the last time you worked a weekend.

A Cursillista that lived the Cursillo the last time you worked a weekend.

Can't remember or find their email or snail mail address or phone number, just email us and we will try to get it for you.

If you would like some suggestions, we gladly will send you some names and address.

Remember to pray for amend to the pandemic and healing to all those and their families that have been infected.

May we also pray to safely keep Saturday June 20, 2020 as our summer Focus Day. We are planning on another meaningful experience if this crisis ends.

John Reinhart

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John Welch John4toledo@yahoo.com

Karen Reinhart kittyrg1967@aol.com

Luanne Welch luannewelch@yahoo.com

Prayervine:

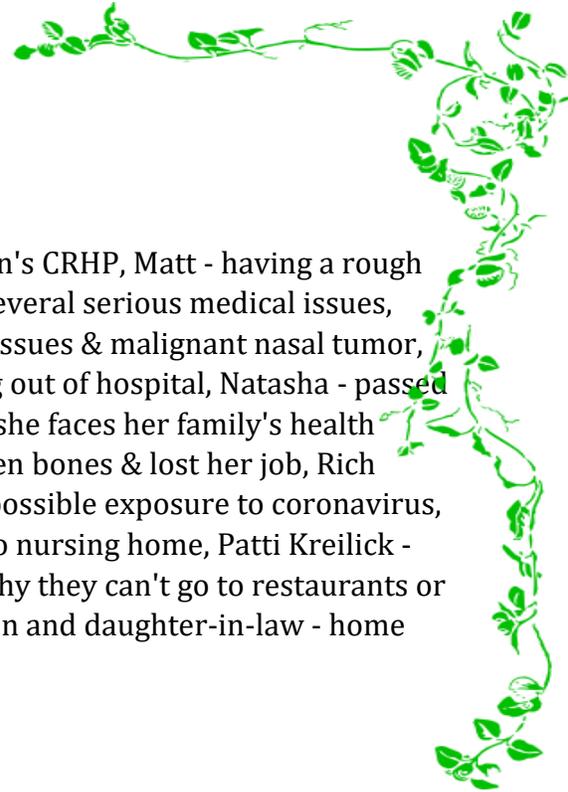
Bob Drewior - for good test results, Kathy - thanksgiving prayers, men's CRHP, Matt - having a rough time, Craig - in hospital with end stage COPD, Ray - in hospital with several serious medical issues, Tom - back surgery, Denny - growth on neck & surgery, Deb - health issues & malignant nasal tumor, Cursillo 281 - team & candidates, Samantha - thanksgiving for getting out of hospital, Natasha - passed away, Jim - biopsy and in pain, Nikki - breast cancer, Pat - prayers as she faces her family's health issues, friend's mom - having seizures & on a ventilator, Tracy - broken bones & lost her job, Rich Brodman & family - death, little Oliver - surgery, Kay Lavey Kruzal - possible exposure to coronavirus, our son - exposed to coronavirus, Deacon Floyd Hohman - confined to nursing home, Patti Kreilick - recovering at home, people with disabilities who don't understand why they can't go to restaurants or movies now, Jackson - high fever, sister-in-law - breast screenings, son and daughter-in-law - home with stay-at-home order and their daughter.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.

*He is not here;
he has
Risen!*

Luke 24:6



Palanca Requests...Please pray for the success of these Cursillo Weekends.

Cursillo weekends for the month of April, 2020

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
4/17/2020	4/19/2020	Women's 457 (French)	Outaouais, Quebec (Canada)
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Men's 37 (Spanish)	Providence, RI
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Men's 217 (Spanish)	Fresno, CA
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Women's 112 (English)	Orlando, FL
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Men's 933 (English)	Phoenix, AZ
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Men's 26 (Spanish)	Washington, DC
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Women's 136 (English)	Grande Prairie, Alberta (Canada)
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Rockville Centre, NY
4/16/2020	4/19/2020	Men's 409 (English)	Detroit, MI
4/16/2020	4/20/2020	Men's Cursillo (English)	Charlottetown, PE (Canada)
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Men's Cursillo (English)	Richmond, VA
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's Cursillo (English)	Charlottetown, PE (Canada)
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's 218 (Spanish)	Fresno, CA
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's 318 (English)	Manchester, NH
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's 126 (English)	Altoona-Johnstown, PA
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's 256 (English)	Green Bay, WI
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's 147 (English)	Ottawa, ON (Canada)
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Mens 958 (English)	Los Angeles, CA
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's Cursillo (English)	Sacramento, CA
4/23/2020	4/26/2020	Women's 71 (Italiano)	Ragusa, Italia (Italy)
4/30/2020	5/2/2020	Men's 95 (Italiano)	Modena, Carpi (Italy)
4/30/2020	5/3/2020	Men's 15 (Italiano)	Pistoia, Italy
4/30/2020	5/3/2020	Men's 287 (Spanish)	Miami, FL
4/30/2020	5/3/2020	Womens 959 (English)	Los Angeles, CA
4/30/2020	5/3/2020	Women's Cursillo (English)	Lincoln, NE
4/30/2020	5/3/2020	Men's 215 (English)	Lubbock, TX
4/30/2020	5/3/2020	Women's 120 (English)	Fort Worth, TX

Ultreya

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

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.