



**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.

#### Upcoming Cursillo Weekends 2020

English Men #281 March 12-15  
Spanish Men #282 March 26-29

English Women #284 April 23-26  
Spanish Women #283 April 16-19

**Please share how Christ is working in Your life.  
Email: Nancy Cook at Nancy750@bex.net**

#### Cursillo Website

Cursillo for the Diocese of Toledo is back!

We have a new site and address. <http://www.cursillo419.org> our new site can now be searched for on the web too. If using Google many phrases will trigger our site, **Toledo Cursillo, Cursillo in the 419 area code**, to list two. Please be aware until the site has months of searches we will normally be about 4 or 5 down the list of search responses. This site is still in progress. We are waiting for the new applications to be built once they are they will be on the site for downloads. How about you? Any ideas on what we might add to our website. If you have any please let us know. You can do that by going to the **Contact** page of our site and submitting your idea.

### Spiritual Advisor

One cold, dark Christmas Eve, a little boy named Raul passed by on his way to the cathedral, carrying only a small candle. Back in the village, Raul's widowed mother was dying. He hoped to place his candle on the altar and pray. As he neared the well, he heard a moan. Then he realized that he had forgotten to bring a coin. Terrified, Raul tripped on a root and fell by the well's edge. There he heard a child's voice, "Help! Give me your light."

"This candle is for my mother," Raul said, trembling. "I must take it to the altar of the big church so that she will get well."

"Can you refuse me on the night of Christ's birth?" the voice pleaded. The boy thought a moment. Then he threw the candle into the well and fell, weeping, on his knees in the darkness.

Suddenly, the light returned. Looking up, Raul saw a child stepping out of the well holding the little candle in his hand. "Go back home," said the child. "Your mother will live."

Raul ran home and found his mother waiting for him as though she had never been ill. Later that night, they went together to the shabby village church to give thanks. When they entered they were nearly blinded by the light, which streamed from the altar. Bathed in such splendor, the old church was every bit as beautiful as the neighboring cathedral.

"Why, Raul," exclaimed his mother, "there is only one candle on the altar. How can one candle make such light?"

Raul was too awed to speak, for as he knelt before the altar, he saw that it was his very own candle. The light he had given away had been given back a thousand fold.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Cursillo,

Over the years I have seen many of you "give your light away" for the well-being of others. You have done it by your willingness to serve the movement in an area or diocesan position; you have done it by carefully preparing candidates for the weekend and following through afterwards

You have given your light away every time you were asked to give a witness, either verbally at an Ultreya or by means of your actions in your everyday environments. I have seen your generosity even though your own burdens were at times many, just like Raul in the story; when everyone would have understood if you had kept that light for yourself.

Christmas is about giving ourselves away: our time, our talent, our treasure. It is about trusting God's ways and daring to live them. And it is about being bathed in God's splendid Light. Thank you for your witness. A blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones!

With much love, Sr. Edna



## From the Lay Director.....

Grand tidings of indescribable Joy... for unto us a Child is born – Jesus Christ the Lord. Mary gives birth as the Mother of God. Joseph cares for the miracle. Angels sing, shepherds stand and kneel in awe. The Star says "Hey, over here!" and wise men bear gifts. This Advent – wait and watch and anticipate our salvation. Angelic voices celebrate at Mass, and songs familiar to our hearts are sung at the proper time for the wondrous revelation of our Redeemer's birth. What better gift than to be redeemed!

Still, the world moans and groans and looks everywhere for redemption. Except that they do not often look to the Lord God, their Creator to be saved from the craziness of the present time. Paul admonishes us to not be conformed to this world in his letter to the Romans ... one translation offers "...do not let the world squeeze you into its own mold." Do we shake our heads as the world's celebration becomes forgetful? Or is there an odd entertainment in watching as the world would choose to believe that it has its own redemption in stuff and more stuff. Are we overstuffed with stuff? Tending to our stuff takes away the time that we could use to grow our relationship with the God; the "I Am" who loves us so much that the Son is sent to live and die and redeem us. And still there is that desire for more stuff, bigger stuff, better stuff, newer stuff, time consuming stuff.

Yet stuff is not evil, it is not even bad, it is the way we may permit the stuff to abuse us that distracts us and squeezes us in funny ways. Still, perhaps, we choose the stuff to surround us and give us temporary pleasure, but still no lasting joy in this part of the world. However, there is the possible blessing that we can use the stuff for the common good, for the Body of Christ, for our own growth towards God. We need to remember that all is blessing and choose to point ourselves in the direction that opens our spirit to His joy.

I see this often in musicians, vocalists, photographers, artists, writers, speakers, administrators, assistants, physicians, nurses, mechanics, coaches, teachers, engineers, machinists, farmers, truckers, athletes, mothers, fathers, young adults .... Etc. And I also sadly see all of these people miss the point. Jesus came as a little baby to grow in strength and knowledge and love to be the living sacrifice for us. Please offer back this grace you have been given. Love is eternal. Pay it forward - forever. Joy in Jesus' birthday celebration, let the love grace flow and grow and go on for the whole year. Merry CHRISTmas!

I would ask you to do one fun thing when you get the chance. Find [www.Cursillo419.org](http://www.Cursillo419.org) (a search engine might not bring it up yet) – our revamped website. My sincerest gratitude to John Welch with a good bit of finding the right product thanks also to Joe Manner and all of the folks who gave John & Joe bits and pieces to bring this together. There is still some tweaking going on to get the web site completely developed into best most usable tool for the Toledo Cursillo Community, but I am so very excited and impressed with their efforts. Our previous site began to corrupt and the software is no longer available to repair that product, so we needed a replacement and now we have something special. God is good, may we be His and be the same.

Finally, the grace of "Thanksgiving" at the November Focus Day was an embrace of thanksgiving in being grateful for being grateful – Eucharist to the world. On behalf of the Cursillo Community, I thank the Reinhart's and Welch's and Fred Garcia and Deacon Mike & Chris Learned and all of the musicians and those who provided hospitality and all who were able to attend. A very gracious job so very well done – again, Thank You!

I am humbly graced by the love of Jesus in this Movement....

Thank you! De Colores,  
Ultrea!!! Tim Haney



## Pre-Cursillo News...

Welcome to the season of Advent, a time of preparation for Christmas. We watch as the Advent wreath lights another candle each week representing hope (first Sunday), preparation (second Sunday), joy (third Sunday), and love (fourth Sunday). We see purple vestments, reminding us of this time of preparation (sometimes we see a pink or rose vestment on the third Sunday of Advent, a sign of the joy to come at Christmas). We celebrate the Feasts of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe, reminding us of Mary. In the readings we hear 'Prepare the way of the Lord'. How are you preparing for the birth of Jesus?

Our spring weekends may seem a ways off yet, but they will be here before we know it. The men's weekend will be March 12-15, 2020, and the women's weekend will be April 23-26, 2020. Do you have candidates in mind? Now is the time to be making those contacts with prospective candidates. If you have candidate applications, please send them in now, don't wait until right before the weekends. We need to have our numbers turned into the Pines no later than two weeks prior to the weekend, so candidate applications need to be turned in no later than three weeks prior to the weekend. The earlier applications are turned in, the better we can prepare for the weekends. Applications for the men's weekend need to be turned in by Feb. 20, 2020, and the women's weekend by April 2, 2020. Applications can either be sent in the mail, or emailed to me (see below for address and email).

With our new Cursillo website up and running, you will now be able to download candidate and sponsor applications. You can also contact me for copies. We do have a new application, so if you have old ones lying around, please dispose of them. We would like to have all applications on the new form as it gives us better information. Also please make sure that you send in your sponsor app at the same time, and that all signatures are completed (this includes the candidate, their pastor, and you as sponsor). If these are not in place, we won't be able to process the app in a timely way. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a very blessed Advent season, and a Merry Christmas!

MaryAnn Hohman  
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson  
102 Oakley Meadow Lane

Tiffin, OH 44883  
419-681-5892  
[mahohman59@gmail.com](mailto:mahohman59@gmail.com)

## *Make a Friend – Be a Friend – Bring a Friend to Christ*

### **From the Cursillo Chair....**

Advent is here. Our pastor made a great statement in his bulletin column this week. This is not verbatim, but the crux of his message was that Advent is a time of waiting and preparing. We all know that. We are waiting for the Lord to come. Monsignor' message was that we already KNOW what we are waiting for!

Which should make the waiting all the more exciting! And that we receive that excitement and that gift every time we are at Mass and every time we receive the Eucharist. No doubt we should always be preparing our hearts for Jesus in the Eucharist. It isn't four weeks in the liturgical calendar; it is every day of our lives.

This has been posted and printed several places, so we can't claim we thought of it. You have probably seen it. It is, however, a holy challenge. The Gospel of Luke is 24 chapters. If on Sunday, December 1, first day of Advent, we would read a chapter each day; on December 24 we would have read the entire account of Jesus' birth, life and death. We have decided to commit to it. And to put what we read into practice. I hope my group reunion will hold me accountable each week.

Again we ask that you contact us if you interested in working a weekend. The men will be starting team meetings right after the New Year.

Blessings on your preparations!

Love and prayers

Mike and Kathy Huffman  
3823 Willys Parkway  
Toledo, Oh. 43612  
419-476-5589  
[mrhottsmom@outdrs.net](mailto:mrhottsmom@outdrs.net)



**Post Cursillo News**

To All Cursillistas,

Your love for God and his son, our brother Jesus is the reason we all put extra effort in our days... Cursillo is just one of the tools out of our tool box to bring friends closer to Christ. Jesus asked us to come together to build his church. Building that church requires us humans to stop and allow the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts and minds and seek those friends that God wants to fall deeper in love with, and his Son, Jesus.

I ask you when you see the one that you have been prayer for, asks the Holy Spirit to come into your thoughts and give you the words that they need to hear. Then become their friend that will take them that step closer. As we all go through the holidays and all the gatherings, pray for courage and step out of that comfort zone and talk to your friend and see if they are ready for the next step.

I have been since living Cursillo in such amazement that God trust me and loves me enough to do His work for him and to be his mouth and hands, to represent his love to others. I take this responsibility very seriously. It is not easy to step out of that comfort zone, but it's the least I can do for what Jesus did for me. For what I have witnessed since living Cursillo, is that more I do for God, the3 more his love for me becomes clearer and the deeper I fall in love with the Trinity.

So as we celebrate the holidays and continue living our fourth day for the Cursillo movement, read and keep Matthew 5:13-16 in your mind and find a friend, be that friend, and bring your friend closer to Christ. Invite them to Cursillo.

Your Loving Brother in Christ

John Reinhardt

**Focus Day Thank You!**

As we are past the Fall Focus Day, and which seems to have been well received. We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Deacon, Mike and Kris Learned and Pastor Fred Garcia for an amazing witness's to God's influence in their life. So much thankfulness radiates from their love.

Holiday Blessings and safe travels,

From the Reinharts and the Welchs,



## *School of Leaders...*

We will have no School of Leaders in December. Next School of Leaders meeting will be in Jan. 2020. Check the Jan. Ark for date, time, and presenters.

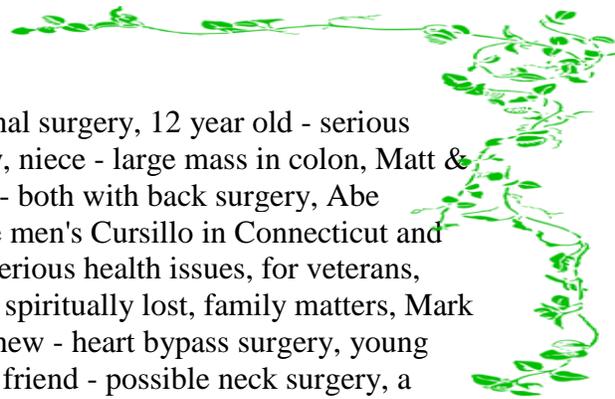
Karen and I want to send our wishes for a Joyful and faith-filled Advent and Christmas season to everyone in the Cursillo community. God Bless.

Karen & John Bonen, Rectors

Team; George & Carol Miller, Joan Alge, Sharon DeCant

## *Prayervine:*

Team & candidates of ACTS, Dale Fair - continued recovery from spinal surgery, 12 year old - serious health issues, Maggie - safe delivery of baby, Andy - maintain sobriety, niece - large mass in colon, Matt & Maggie's baby - thanksgiving, Cheryl - heart care, Jim & Elaine Allen - both with back surgery, Abe Ledesma - in hospital, Bob & family - Hospice with Bob, for first-time men's Cursillo in Connecticut and Argentina, Bob - pink eye, David - seizures & in coma, Paul Kaiser - serious health issues, for veterans, David - passed away, Joanne - health issues, Cheri - hernia, a brother - spiritually lost, family matters, Mark Blum - heart surgery, Sr. Dorothy Dalton - passed away, Haney's' nephew - heart bypass surgery, young man with depression/anxiety, friend's brother-in-law - suicide attempt, friend - possible neck surgery, a friend who tried to commit suicide.



*Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at*  
[prayersaregoingup@gmail.com](mailto:prayersaregoingup@gmail.com).

## Spanish Cursillo

Spanish leader school has been moved to December 4th at 6:30 Toledo Ohio

Spanish Cursillo.

Men's - March 26-29, 2020

Women's April 16-19, 2020

At Wide Water Camp and Retreat Center, located in Liberty Center, Ohio.

Spanish leader School 1st Saturday of each month

## Ultreya

### **Location**

### **Contact**

St. Clement Parish, Jeager Hall  
2nd Sunday of the Month, 2:00 PM

Ron and Carol Plenzler  
[carron@buckeye-access.com](mailto:carron@buckeye-access.com)

Tiffin, St. Francis Home  
Resume in January, 2020

Betty and Bill Obringer  
[wobringer@woh.rr.com](mailto:wobringer@woh.rr.com)

Lima Christmas Dinner Ultreya

Dale Fair (419-339-1516)

Old Barn Out Back Restaurant  
Thursday, 12/5/19 at 5:30 p.m.

[kfair@woh.rr.com](mailto:kfair@woh.rr.com)

Bucyrus/Crestline/Galion/  
New Washington/Bethlehem  
December 11, 2019  
Ultreya Christmas Dinner  
[karenbonen@yahoo.com](mailto:karenbonen@yahoo.com)  
419-563-5115. Email, call or text for details.

Karen Bonen  
[karenbonen@yahoo.com](mailto:karenbonen@yahoo.com)

Findlay Ultreya  
No Ultreya for December  
Will meet in January again  
Christmas Blessings

John and Karen Reinhart  
[jreinhart2911@gmail.com](mailto:jreinhart2911@gmail.com)

Spanish Ultreya  
Resume tentatively  
April 2020

Susanne Sepeda  
[Sepedaj@aol.com](mailto:Sepedaj@aol.com)



**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.

**CURSILLO WEBSITE:** [www.toledocursillo.org](http://www.toledocursillo.org)

Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.

