

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.

June 2020

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

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Upcoming Cursillo Weekends 2020

English Men – Sept. 17 – 20, 2020
Spanish Men – Fall 2020
Spanish Women - Fall 2020
English Women Oct. 15 -19, 2020

Please share how
Christ is working in
your life.

Email
Nancy Cook at nancy750@bex.net

Precious Sisters and Brothers,

Happy the month of June which carries with it the sense of beginnings as summer approaches and seeds are falling on fertile ground and now with extra delays because of the coronavirus a sense of getting started again. Very much in my mind is the celebration of family that happens with Mothers' Day in May and soon Fathers' Day this month because I have always felt that Cursillo is family too.

We like to celebrate each other and share beautiful stories and memories; and in the Family of God that's known as *evangelization* which is what we're all about. We love to keep our family growing and eventually have **everyone** invited to join and tremendously happy to do so.

One of the special signs of all this is the efforts we're making as Family of God (Church) and Cursillo to stay in touch while keeping safe and healthy. Zooming is a good example and I suspect there will be other connections that we'll come up with that may become significant elements in our continuing efforts at evangelization to the whole world.

One of my little treasures is that I see the Holy Spirit very much at work in this covid-19 experience. We support and encourage one another to be open, safely together, enjoying one another's presence, companionship, gifts and talents. I'm enjoying the thought that because we are so open to inviting our friends to make weekends with us, this virus thing is going to make us even better at that, and it will turn out to be an actual blessing!!!

Celebrating Tim Haney gives me the thought that his companionship and leadership have just transitioned from earth to heaven as a powerful move. John Lyons and Kathy Otermat will be blessed as they grow us with some extra help from heaven, and they'll enjoy it -- right along with us all, eh? I treasure the thought of *co-operation*! Let's make the most of who we are -- that people can't wait to join us!

De Colores,
Fr. Skip

From a treatise On Holy Spirit by St Basil the Great [as we celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost!]

The titles given to the Holy Spirit must surely stir the soul of anyone who hears them and make him/her realize that they speak of nothing less than the supreme Being. Is he not called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, the steadfast Spirit, the guiding Spirit? But his principal and most personal title is the Holy Spirit.

To the Spirit all creatures turn in their need for sanctification; all living things seek him according to their ability. His breath empowers each to achieve its own natural end.

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and he offers his own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature, the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know him by his goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but he gives himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of his/her faith.

Simple in himself the Spirit is manifold in his mighty works. The whole of his being is present to each individual; the whole of his being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, he remains unchanged; his self-giving is no loss to himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him/her alone, so the Spirit pours forth his grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive him. To all creatures that share in him he gives a delight limited only by their own nature, not by his ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with himself.

As clear, transparent substances become very bright when sunlight falls on them and shine with a new radiance, so also souls in whom the Spirit dwells, and who are enlightened by the Spirit, become spiritual themselves and a source of grace for others.

From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we are admitted to the company of the angels, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire a likeness to God; indeed, we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations -- we become God. [Boy does this speak to me!!]



This Photo by Unknown Author

Lay Director

Friends, it is so good to have you as companions on this journey. As Tim & Joyce Haney have shared with us in the past, '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!!' In this Cursillo movement, we are all striving for the latter.

From Kathy Otermat:

John Lyons and I are the new lay directors. We will be leading together. I lived my Cursillo weekend in May, 1985. (I was INCREDIBLY young.) This movement has been an important part of my life pretty much ever since. I have had different positions in the movement and had an opportunity to be the lay director with my husband Scott (who's now in heaven) some years ago. I knew the lay director position was currently open, and a couple of dear Cursillo friends had mentioned the position to me, but I did not feel that this was the right time. HOWEVER, God had a different idea. (Yay, God!)

If you are like me, this pandemic has provided me with time to pray. Thankfully, there are people online leading prayer, which helps a lot. My local church has daily Mass. There is a transitional deacon awaiting ordination who was invited by my pastor to stay with him after St. Meinrad's closed. He already gives wonderful homilies. There was one on Easter Friday where the deacon said that we know what God is asking us to do. There are parts of our lives that we are hesitant to give to Him. He is asking us to go out and be on a mission for Him, and we're afraid. We need to figure out what this is going to look like. He encouraged us to listen to Christ's voice giving us a clear sign to move ahead. Listening to his homily, I realized that Christ's voice was revealed through the deacon's words. The next day, I contacted Sister Edna to say that I would like to become the next lay director. And then...

From John Lyons:

Jesus said that if we want to be the greatest, we have to serve. If we want to be first, we need to be last. And since living my Cursillo #199 back in 2001, I have grown to understand this message more and more. That is one reason that I said yes to God for this position; to serve Him and those He has put in my life. And I am not perfect. I do make my mistakes. I am trying my best to follow His lead.

So, how did this calling to lay director come about? I had felt a few months ago that God was calling me to this position. But like many others, I brushed it aside. I said, "God, if you really want me to do this then make it really known to me." I did not feel any concrete answer. On went life. Then a few weeks ago I felt the calling again. STRONGER. OK, I hear you. Can you please send me a confirmation? Three days in a row I heard songs on the radio speak to me about doing His will. I made the first call to a very trusted friend who said to call Fr. Jim. I did. He did not answer. I left a message. Two days later after no return call, I got the nudge to call Fr. Jim. I followed through and this time he answered. Come to find out he had phone problems when I first called him. Hence no return call. After a brief talk, he said this is wonderful, but someone else had already stepped forward to fill that vacancy. Would I be interested in assistant lay director? Oh, who is the lay director? He filled me in that Kathy Otermat had said yes about a week or so ago. Yes, I can work with her!

After that I called Kathy and we talked about being co-rectors. Perfect. And here we are. Ready and willing to take on this leadership role together to continue the ongoing growth of the Toledo Diocese

Cursillo. We are here to serve you! What can we do for you? Do you have a need or want? Please let us know. We want to work together with you.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

John Lyons
lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat
kotermat04@gmail.com



Pre-Cursillo

‘Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created; and You will renew the face of the Earth’.

How appropriate that we are returning to the celebration of Mass this Pentecost weekend! There is so much excitement, along with maybe a little nervousness, but we are here. We are ready to worship in our churches, and to receive our Lord once again in the Holy Eucharist. I don’t know about you, but that first time receiving Jesus again after this long wait, brought tears to my eyes.

These past two and a half months have seemed like a long time. Hopefully it has been a time of growth for us, taking more time to reflect and pray, and coming closer to Jesus. It has given me a routine of prayer and study that I hope to keep going now. It has given me a greater appreciation for those around the world who are not able to receive the Eucharist regularly. It has opened my heart to reflecting on my life, and how I am living it. I don’t want to take anything for granted. We have been given a gift in our Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s take that gift and spread it to those who don’t know Him in their hearts.

As we move into summer, the fall weekends are on our hearts. Now is the time to look around your environments for potential candidates. Now is the time to ‘Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ’. Candidate and sponsor applications can be found on the Toledo Cursillo website (www.cursillo419.org), and click on the ARK and Forms, and scroll part way down. Please send in your forms once they are filled out (information is listed below). Waiting until the deadline for applications to be turned in makes it more difficult to get them processed in a timely way. Please see next month’s ARK for more information on the fall weekends. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Enjoy the nice weather. Have a happy June!

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

From the Cursillo Chair....

Dear Cursillo Family,

Although this opportunity to be at home and have time to focus on the things of God has been a bit of a blessing for Mike and I ... We know that is not the case for everyone. Our prayers are with all who are seeing this time in a different way. It has also been a time of anxiety. We have not spent any quality time with our children, grandchildren, or friends for many weeks.

We gave one of our best friends back to Jesus as a result of the Virus.

We look forward, hopefully and prayerfully, to being able to return to life as we knew it. To be able to be with our Cursillo family and engage in the activities of the Cursillo weekends.

Until then, please know that we have and continue to pray for you and hold you in our hearts every day.

Love and Prayers Continue,
The Huffmans

School of Leaders...

Our next School of Leaders meeting will be held June 20th @ 9:00 A.M. This meeting will be in place of our Focus Day as we are not yet able to gather in person due to the pandemic. We will again be using zoom technology for our meeting and will send out invitations to those who wish to attend. Please send your request to karenbonen@yahoo.com by June 17th. We will need your email address with your request. We are going to try something a little different this month, (grouping via zoom) so we ask that you let us know if you 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 - Kathy Otermat
Chapter 11 of The Joy of Discipleship - Sr Edna Michel
Chapter 8 of Perfectly Yourself - Luanne Welch

Do you want to get more involved in our movement? Do you love to share Christ with others? We are looking for someone to step up and assume the Rector position of School of Leaders as our term ends this month. If you would like more information about it, or feel called to step up, please let us know. (karenbonen@yahoo.com) We would be happy to share our experience with you. The positions of Lay Directors (Kathy Otermat and John Lyons) and Facilities (Mike & Therese Cherry) have been filled. A great big thank you and welcome to each of them.

May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in each of you.

God bless you,

John & Karen Bonen, Rectors

Team (Carol & George Miller, Joan Alge, Sharon DeCant)



Fourth Day

With the restrictions still in place from COVID 19 we will be unable to hold our summer Focus Day. Worry not when one door closes God opens another. School of Leaders will hold a special session on Saturday June 20 at 9:00 AM on Zoom. Please come join us. Just email Karen and John Bonen at karenbonen@yahoo.com and they will send you a link to join us. More information may be found in the School of Leaders article here in the Ark. A special secret for School of Leaders, we will be holding small groupings during the meeting.

Just a few ideas about keeping in touch with your sister and brother Cursillistas. Find a team list that you were on and give an old friend you have not spoken with in a while a phone call. They will love the call and you will renew a wonderful friendship.

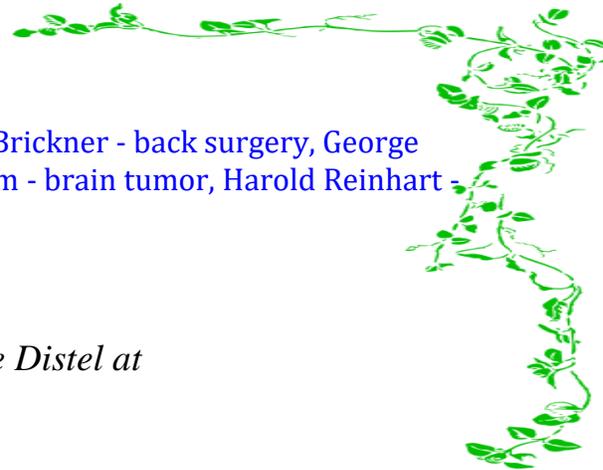
Your Fourth Day Team,
Karen and John Reinhart
Luanne and John Welch

Prayervine:

Nancy - multiple myeloma, Tim Haney & family - his passing, Roger Brickner - back surgery, George Pickett - Coronavirus, Jeanne Woods - passed away, Erik Olson's mom - brain tumor, Harold Reinhart - mental health.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.



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

Cursillo weekends for the month of June and July, 2020

6/17/2020	6/20/2020	Women's 8 (Italian)	Acqui Terme, Italy
7/23/2020	7/26/2020	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	Linares, Nuevo Leon (Mexico)
7/30/2020	8/2/2020	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Linares, Nuevo Leon (Mexico)

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

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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