

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.

January 2021

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

Spiritual Advisor	Page 1
Lay Director	Page 2
Pre-Cursillo	Page 3
School of Leaders	Page 4
Fourth Day	Page 5
Prayer Vine	Page 6
Ultreyas	Page 7
Palanca	Page 7

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Men's September 16-19, 2021

Women's October 14-17, 2021

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

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are in the process of beginning to tell the story again of Jesus Christ, having come to earth to be with us as part of God's plan of saving the world. MERRY CHRISTMAS! Hope you all are experiencing more and more and more grace and sense of presence with Jesus our Savior.

I'd like to start to try to put this together from the beginning of time up to our own generation. We have the Old Testament which is a written record of God's interplay with us humans. The Old Testament has lots of references to nature: beautiful farmland, fruitful vines, mountains, streams, paths, etc. It also includes tough stuff like hurricanes, floods, pestilence. We also have the story of the human condition from the creation of Adam and Eve, their sin and the challenge of getting along with all kinds of other human beings who want to run the world. God sent prophets to teach us humans to trust Him and to try to make it all work together. Aren't we just finishing a year with multiple challenges, both in nature (eg. Covid-19) and our politics resulting from the human inability to get along with others??

In our own generation we have a situation of our faith ancestors (Jews) still struggling to live in peace, especially those living in Israel, the Holy Land of Jesus' birth. And all over the world, current day Jews are still struggling with things like the Holocaust and all kinds of anti-Semitism. We have the gift of Jesus, Son of God, coming to earth to share our human condition to help human beings live in peace. We are 2,020 years old and still uncovering the power God wants to give us. In our faith we understand that we are sisters and brothers to Jesus with God the Creator as our Father and Mary as also our mother. We have the opportunity to invite all we meet to share that peace as we: "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ."

Cursillo helps us understand more and more what God is giving us and wants to use in us to bring the world to peace. Our sharing of our stories of faith in Grouping, Ultreyas, School of Leaders, team formation and parties are all tools to get to know Jesus better, ourselves better and God better. Cursillo is one of the best gifts we have to help us do this.

I'd like to end with a beautiful challenge to each of us to develop a PERSONAL PLAN to live as Jesus wants us to for the coming year so that the peace, He brings may become more evident in our lives, our homes and our world. As we personalize more deeply our faith and share it with one another we can become sparkling, fantastic, inspiring tools for our world to be much better off at Christmas time 2021! We just need to witness very confidently our precious faith and help one another grow more deeply and closer and closer together. SO: let's each of us think faithfully, reverently, powerfully about how our faith can help ourselves, help our families, help our friends, help our coworkers, help our neighbors, even help our politics and those who come off as our enemies! Gonna be a challenge of course; but it will truly bring a more *wonderful life!*

De Colores,
Fr. Skip

Lay Director

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

Happy New Year!

That phrase takes on new meaning for me with the challenges of 2020. I'm ready to look back on 2020, instead of living in it. However, I have learned much from 2020 because I had time to learn yet again that:

1. God loves me. From John 4:18, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." I reminded myself often that God is still in control, continues to love me, doesn't want me to live in fear. I want to continue to live in love, not fear.
2. God has a plan for me. From Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This, of course, is not a guarantee of a life without hardship. We are not in heaven yet. But there is hope. And a future. Even when I cannot imagine what that future could be because my life has changed from what it was.
3. Placing my trust in God is the way to peace. From Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Whenever I tried to lean on my own understanding this past year, I did not live in peace. When I trust in God, I can let go of my worries for what is not mine to control. Which is pretty much everything.

I'm looking forward to seeing you and hugging you before too long. I am now even more grateful for this movement, for all of you God-loving people who know well how to love and serve God and our fellow pilgrims on this earthly journey. God bless you!

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

John Lyons
lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat
kotermat04@gmail.com

Pre-Cursillo

Happy New Year!

Do you make New Year's resolutions? Are you someone who wonders what your resolution should be, or if you should even make one? Or do you make a resolution, but don't follow it through? I think I am a little of all of these. I especially wonder if I should even make one because I try to do my best each day.

One of the things that I want to do this year is to be more trusting. During Advent, my parish had several evenings of preparing for Christmas through a video series. Different presenters spoke on preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. One evening, the topic was trust. We looked at how Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zachariah had to trust in what the Angel Gabriel was telling them. Each one had to trust in a different way as the Old Testament was fulfilled in their sight. We then looked at how we trust. Trust can be a scary thing. Sometimes we just have to step out in faith, and trust in what God is asking of us. When I can step out in faith and trust God, amazing things happen. It makes me wonder what I may have missed because I didn't trust what God was asking me to do. How will you step out and trust God this year?

As we start this new year, we are planning on having weekends in the fall. More information will be coming next month. Now is the time to start looking for candidates. Do you know someone who would be a good candidate, but are afraid to ask that person? Trust that God will help you 'Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ'. Let's have full weekends of candidates!

May each of you have a healthy, happy, productive, and blessed New Year!

MaryAnn Hohman
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson

102 Oakley Meadow Lane
Tiffin, OH 44883
419-681-5892
mahohman59@gmail.com

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



School of Leaders...

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

Protests in Washington DC, political uprisings here and abroad, kidnappings, drug wars, turf battles, drive by shootings, unemployment, rioting, looting, the countless issues of the day. Wow, it's discouraging just writing that list. (and I've only scratched the surface) And yet we worship a God who tells us that we are to rejoice! Not just occasionally, but always living "full of joy". That's easier said than done. There are days when life makes rejoicing nearly impossible. Jesus cried with those who were mourning and suffered with those who were suffering. Yet the apostle Paul, who underwent trials and tribulations at every turn, wrote that we should rejoice in the Lord.

There is a great sketch by Frances Hook of Jesus laughing. I imagine that Jesus laughed often - with his disciples at wedding receptions, or at dinner with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. He exuded joy!

It's disappointing to sometimes hear Christians talking with a spirit of fear and worry, of concern and dread. I get it, life is hard. If it feels like the world is stacked against us, it could be true. (God blesses those who are persecuted. Matthew 5:10) Whether or not we are "happy" on any given day is often dictated by the circumstances around us. But joy is always there on any given day for those who serve a risen Savior. Sadly, people who don't know their eternal destiny often live with fear and uncertainty. Maybe the joy they see in you (even when times are tough, and you are struggling) will compel them to seek God. His joy is in abundant supply. Approaching each day with joy can be tough at times. God wants us to stay focused on Him, not on the things of this world that can drag us down. He is the source of our joy. Embrace His presence and spread His joy.

Since our last School of Leaders meeting, we have celebrated Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and now the New Year. We pray that 2021 will bring a semblance of normal back into all of our lives.

Our next School of Leaders will be held January 16, 2021 at 9 AM via zoom. Our bible reading and reflection will be presented by Jan Stainbrook. Our Spiritual Advisors presentation will be given by Deacon Kevin Wintersteller, chapter 3 of the book His Way by Fr David Knight. (available on Amazon and the National Cursillo website) The lay presentation will be given by Kathy Otermat, Chapter 4 of the Study of the Charism, OMCC (available on the National Cursillo website. www.natl-cursillo.org) Please feel free to invite a friend to join us!

If you plan to attend this zoom meeting, please contact Karen Bonen via email at karenbonen@yahoo.com by Wednesday, January 13 with your email address. Invitations will be sent out with instructions on how to connect to the Zoom account on Thursday, January 14. While the Zoom approach isn't like being in person with one another, it is still a good way to be able to see one another and share our experience, strength, and hope with each other. Hope to see you there.

Happy New Year and may your hearts be filled with joy! Rejoice!

God bless,

John and Karen Bonen, rectors

Do you love our Cursillo movement? Do you feel called to be more involved? The School of Leaders needs new rectors starting in July 2021. Ask the Holy Spirit if this is something that you could do. Spend some time in prayer and see if this might work for you. (it has been a wonderful experience for us)

John & Karen Bonen, rectors.

Fourth Day

What then shall we do?

Greetings Sisters, Brothers and Friends,

With great promise we have celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. His birth brings forth a new beginning for the world, for each of us. A time to look ahead to increase the Lord's presence in each us now that we have prepared ourselves during Advent.

What then shall we do? In Luke 2:46-47.

46 "After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, 47 and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers."

We find Jesus teaching in the temple. He is astounding the teachers of the temple with understanding, answers and questions. In today's culture we would call it a prequel to His ministry. How many of them will listen to Him in the future and take His words into their hearts? Are we listening and opening our hearts to Jesus?

What then shall we do? Now is the time for us to listen and let God grow inside us, inside our very hearts! Our Cursillo movement is looking ahead too! We are giving answers to these questions. We can now see the hope of vaccines to fight this virus and allow us to come together to celebrate with each other in Christ. We are planning now for English Speaking Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends. The Men's Weekend will be held September 16th thru the 19th 2021 at Carey Ohio. The Women's Weekend will follow October 14th thru 17th. Yes the return to some normalcy. To emerge from isolation, moving from darkness into the light.

What then shall we do until then? First, we still have our monthly School of Leaders on the third Saturday of the month. This month it will be Saturday, January 16, 2021. We start at 9:00 AM and end about 11:00 AM. We host it via Zoom. See the article from the School of Leaders' rectors here in the Ark for more information.

Area Ultreyas have been on hold during this pandemic. Something we have all missed greatly. Again, what can we do? Secretariat is working on a diocesan wide Ultreya. Once again hosted via Zoom. As we write this article plans are being finalized. If the specifics are not in this Ark at the time we go to print, keep an eye out for an announcement in our Prayervine emails. Check at our website: www.Cursillo419.org. Look in the "What's New" or "Events" pages.

What then shall we do?

In closing we see answers in Luke 3:10-11

10 *And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?”* **11** *He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.”*

That we must continue to be generous and help others. To be Christian in our actions. To bring others to Christ. Maybe you can plan and prepare on working a Cursillo weekend. Helping to bring Christ to new Cursillistas. Invite or bring a fellow Cursillista to our next School of Leaders or Ultreya. Reach out to another Cursillista or friend to share some time, prayer, and hope. Bring your light to others.

With love and brightened hope for our future,

Post Cursillo Team:

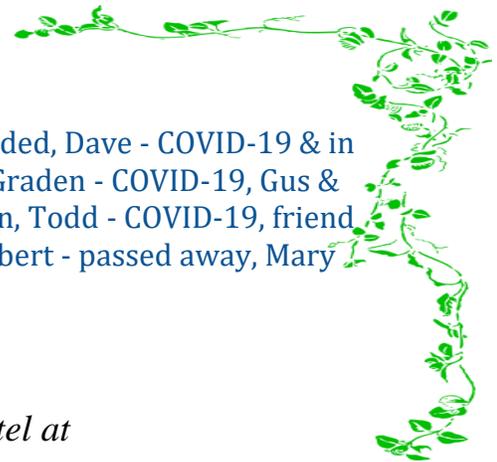
John and Karen Reinhart
John and Luanne Welch,
email: John4toledo@yahoo.com

Prayervine:

The Darr's - COVID-19 & pneumonia, Shannon - shoulder surgery, then coded, Dave - COVID-19 & in hospital, David - collengitis, Don & Mary Lou Evans - in hospital, Fr. John Graden - COVID-19, Gus & Pat - prayers of thanksgiving, Ron - very ill, Erin Estep - intestinal infection, Todd - COVID-19, friend trying to get pregnant, Jenn - teacher struggling with COVID-19, Bernie Albert - passed away, Mary Lou Evans - COVID-19 and passed away.

Please send your prayer requests to Jane Distel at

prayersaregoingup@gmail.com.



Ultreya

Have you been wanting to get together with your friends and fellow cursillistas?

Well, your waiting is coming to an end!!

On February 7, 2021

the Toledo Diocese Cursillo

is going to have an Ultreya!!

It will be from 2:00 - 4:00.

come for however long you can.

ZOOM style. Everyone won't have to wear a mask. Plenty of room. We will attempt to have different "rooms" available for part of the time where you can go and chat with different people.

As usual, there will be music, readings, meditation, and a witness.

Please consider coming and joining us! We all miss the times of getting together and sharing hugs. So let's do that virtually.

Please RSVP to me at lyons5876@gmail.com. Then I will send you the link to join!

Hoping to see you there!!

John Lyons lyons5876@gmail.com

Kathy Otermat kotermat04@gmail.com

and all of secretariat!

Palanca

Greetings and Happy New Year,

Another year has passed. Like so many things that have happened in 2020 "passing" may be a good thing. But there are many things that we may rather "continue on" with rather than "say goodbye" to. Like becoming a year wiser, or our families continuing to grow, or the changed heart we encountered through a recent Cursillo or other "life-changing" event and the new friends we have met along the way.

Whatever side of the fence you may be on we should always give thanks to God for the blessings He has showered us with- some grand and others painful. But remember, God would never place you where His grace would not protect you.

At this time, there are no Cursillo's scheduled anywhere until March 2021. But let us continue to pray and do palanca for each other (and our Cursillo brothers and sisters) and to do these things in His Son's name, Jesus Christ.

Wishing you all a blessed year filled with life's beautiful colors of His hope and love.

Peace,

Jan Stainbrook

'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 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.

