

# 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.**

## October, 2019

Application Forms are on the Website:

<http://www.toledocursillo.org/Download.html>

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

**Email  
Nancy Cook at**

**Nancy750@bex.net**

I just celebrated fortieth anniversary of ordination and I am awed at God's patience with me: I'm still asking, "Lord, what are you asking of me?" Forty-six years ago, I began the formation processes for the ministry of deacon. The memory of that first evening before the huge crucifix at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart house of formation is ever etched in my mind and heart; I asked, "What do you want of me Lord?" Either I haven't heard God speak in the silence or I'm not doing a good job of listening.

But Saint Augustine redeems this inner restless seeking of mine to be a faithful servant. In his soul-searching Confessions he says: *Alas for me! Through your own merciful dealings with me, O Lord my God, tell me what you are to me. Say to my soul, I am your salvation. Say it so that I can hear it. My heart is listening, Lord; open the ears of my heart and say to my soul, I am your salvation. Let me run towards this voice and seize hold of you.*

I am not alone in this quest!!

I believe we are all restless and are seeking to hear his voice. If we listen, we may hear God inviting every one of us—all of His beloved sons and daughters—to share in the abundance of His divine life by following Jesus in the way of holiness, of service and discipleship. We are called to be his image, to be his voice in a blurry and noisy world and/or hard of hearing world. God is ever inviting us to embrace our deeper mission or in the words of Pope Francis, to become "Missionary Disciples".

The experience of the Cursillo retreat was to fan the flame of God's love in each one of us and then as missionary disciples to reach out to young and old who desperately search for fulfillment in excessive pleasures, false religions, philosophy, dissipation and distractions—futilities that leave us exhausted without peace. Reaching the unreached in faith to believe in Jesus Christ is the only answer to a life of joy and peace and fulfillment.

Pope Francis in his letter the Joy of the Gospel said, *Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries," but rather that we are always "missionary disciples."* We are sent! Our three days on retreat was to prepare us for a lifetime and hopefully into eternity empowering us to continue the spiritual journey with and Jesus Christ. The fourth day is taking this journey and respond to God's call and to go where He is calling one to go to.

What do you want of me, Lord? Baltimore Catechism said, “*God made me to know him, to love him, and to serve him*” and to share that with every person we meet in our daily life and to love them with the same intensity as Christ loves you and me. We/they need to hear that!

*“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”*

*Saint Augustine*

De Colores

Deacon Alfredo Diaz

## **From the Lay Director.....**

I love great explanations! I feel they are the keys not just to learning, but also into making connections with things that we already know. One of my favorite academies for learning about my faith walk is the R.C.I.A. process. The Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults brings together wonderful teams of loving Catholics who are graced to share their love of Jesus and Mary and the Sacraments and the embrace of our Catholic Church (and probably a few thousand specifics I didn't mention that are part of the broad spectrum of the Catholic faith walk.)

This Fall, I was graced to offer a session on “Salvation History”. Certainly a handout showing the spectrum of connections between God and the “very good” creation and relationship with humanity is the initial focus. Adam & Eve to Noah to Abram to Isaac to Moses to David to Jesus with a few stops in between is the time-line - after all if you need to be “saved”, you need a Savior -. The second time-line is the intimate question of “What is your personal salvation history?” Where and when and how and maybe why have you been personally touched in your life time by the Father and by Jesus and by the Spirit??? What do you need to be saved for? Or from? I could offer the entirety of mine, but just one point is the great explanation that I received.

As we entered into the discussion period, folks were offering their personal witnesses to their being close, near and nearer to God. We shared about how those are mile-posts in our salvation history. Certainly these are special moments and times, yet are these the crux of our salvation? I often claimed in earlier times that I am a “born again” Catholic, and in a way that is true, yet in another way that is not my “salvation”. Salvation is God’s reach to me. The first point I made in the presentation is that the primary difference in the Judeo-Christian faith walk is that it is “God looking for woman and man...”, the other world faith walks are mostly “Woman and man looking for God...”. God’s looking for me was initiated in my Baptism to my Reconciliation to the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation and never forgetting the grace of Matrimony with Joyce. That is my “Salvation History” ... so what about that “born again” experience? Was it valid? Was it real? Was it necessary? The answers to all of these are YES, yes, yes and yes. Then, in the R.C.I.A discussion time, I was graced with the wonderful explanation from Father Francis Speier who is my pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Toledo.

I had figured out a few years ago that my “born again” experience was really my personal realization of our Lord’s loving sacramental hugs through our Church. My discovery was/is very much my adult embrace of the sacrament of Confirmation, but I had never defined in my heart the difference between salvation and conversion. Conversion is ... you know that “metanoia” thing from the Cursillo 3-Day Weekend you lived. Father Speier explained that our salvation is the action of God towards us, and we understand this action of our salvation in the times of our response and agreement - conversion. These are the many, many “Times” ... not just one or two, that the ways of His personal relationship with us is expressed every single day. In each day, as we work out the reality of our salvation, in response to God’s perfect love for us we understand much better how eternally we are loved. Our conversions are the embraces of our salvation; they may feel

more important, as they are the life changing special times where we feel the touch of God to our heart. Yet the reality is that these are our special moments where we come to the Lord like the “prodigal” to speak of our screwing it up only to find out that the Father is running to embrace us because the forgiveness is there before we ask, though we still need to ask, because that is conversion that demonstrates our salvation. Many folks that know God’s love have a calmer faith walk and their salvation history does not have flashing lights or eye opening touches to the heart ... they have walked their whole lives in the grace of salvation, whereas there are those of us that need the prod of a “two by four” every once in a while.

Regardless of the personal specifics, keep praying for and finding your conversions ... for me, I need many more than just one, as these are the chase of our salvation histories. And if anyone asks you “Have you been saved?” or “Have you been born again?” remember your Baptism and other sacraments. You can answer yes, of course, every single day until the Kingdom. Have fun in the grace of your “metanoia” each Spirit breathed day ... Thank you Father Speier for the blessing of your wisdom and great explanation. Your love of Our Lord is graciously obvious!

A final entreaty, please pray a decade of the Rosary a day for the Cursillo. Thank you!

Ultrea!!!  
Tim Haney

## Pre-Cursillo News...

Welcome to fall! This is one of my favorite times of year. The air is crisp, the leaves are changing color, and there is a crunch as we walk through the fallen leaves. These are just a few reminders of God’s great creation all around us.

As I talked about last month, the Secretariat has revised the candidate’s application. One of the changes is that the application now includes the sponsor’s information. A sponsor’s application will still need to be completed, but this will help as the candidate’s application is processed.

We would like to start using these new applications for the spring weekends. If you have any old applications, please destroy them. Please feel free to contact me, or any member of the Secretariat for a copy. We will also be sending them out to the Ultreya contact people, and copies will be available at Focus Day in November. Once the new website is up and running, it will also be available there to download.

Enjoy this fall time. It is a great time to start looking for potential candidates for the spring weekend, and ‘Be a friend, make a friend, and bring that friend to Christ’.

MaryAnn Hohman  
Pre-Cursillo Chairperson  
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Tiffin, OH 44883  
419-681-5892

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

## From the Cursillo Chair....

Dear Friends,

We are familiar with the commonly heard phrase on the weekend "Best Team Ever!". Having just been graced to serve on the recent Women's Weekend, I will say it was right up at the top for me personally. Due to life's circumstances, I arrived on Thursday with a very wounded soul. Yet I was starving to be there in the presence of my Lord and with my Cursillo family.

Walking through the entrance of the Pines, I felt God's peace wash over me. I felt the joy and love my Cursillo family always envelops me in. Throughout the weekend I came to embrace 11 new sisters. We laughed, we cried, we prayed, we shared, we listened to amazing witnesses, we gave each other faith and hope for ourselves, our families, our Church and our world. The Lord spoke to me about an Apostolic plan I have been dragging my feet about for a long time. Amazing grace.... I almost (almost!) felt guilty coming away feeling so fed personally, when my focus was to be there to serve the ladies of Cursillo 280.

Now is the time for YOU to take the opportunity to serve on one of "The Best Teams Ever!" Teams are forming now for Spring. It may seem a little early to turn in your application for the Spring weekends. But don't we all know how time flies? You can download a form from the website or contact us directly and we will get you an application asap. If you have questions, get in touch and we will do our best to answer or steer you in the right direction.

Love and Prayers,  
Mike and Kathy Huffman  
3823 Willys Parkway  
Toledo, Oh. 43612  
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Moments of Prayer for the Month of October: Our Lady of the Rosary and 40 Days for Life



  
40  
DAYS  
FOR  
LIFE™

Fall Focus Day November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

“In All Things Give Thanks”

Place St. Wendelin, Fostoria Ohio 323 North Wood St.

Time 9Am To 3Pm.

We will be gathering for coffee and Fellowship at 8:30Am.

To open our Hearts and Thoughtful Minds for a Day of Giving Thanks.



Please bring a bag lunch and drink, Soup and water will be provided. There will be a free will offering to cover expenses.

??'s call Reinharts 419-722-4257 or Welchs 419-478-3610

## *School of Leaders...*

We had our School of Leaders meeting on Sept. 21, 2019. John Welch did our scripture reading with Fr. Skip doing the Spiritual Advisor's presentation. Roger Brickner did our Lay presentation. It was one of those mornings, at School of Leaders, that all of the presentations fit together perfectly. A big thank you to all who presented. It was super good, and I am sure we each had something we could take away from the morning.

Our next School of Leaders will be held, Sat. October 19, 2019 at 9:00 AM at St Michael's, 750 Bright Rd. Findlay, Ohio. Meeting will be held in the Teacher's Lounge. (Enter through the main office door; turn to the right at the first corridor, then left at the next corridor. Teacher's Lounge is on your right).

Coffee and Tea are provided. Bring a snack for all to enjoy. Bring along a fellow Cursillista who has not been to School of Leaders, or one who has not been there for a while. Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to School of Leaders. Oh yea, there will be some pretty awesome music as well.

Dale Fair will be doing the Scripture reading with reflection. Deacon Ron Plenzler will be our spiritual advisor for the morning presenting Chapter 7 of The Joy of Discipleship. Gus Miller will have the Lay presentation covering Chapter 6 of Perfectly Yourself.

We will end our morning in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for a decade of the Holy Rosary and individual prayer.

This will be our last School of Leaders meeting for the Year, as next month (November) we will be having our Focus Day. Look for more information in the ARK concerning this faith filled day.

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

## *Prayervine:*

Carolyn Drewior - back pain, friend's dad - open heart surgery, Joe's bro-in-law - fell from a ladder, friend's mom - health issues, young woman with addictions, Alejo - cancer, Bev - bad car accident, Addie - to get out of hospital, Tom - shoulder surgery, Deb Swartz - passing from cancer, Mary - pregnant & needs prayers, Thom - family - typhoon in Japan, Matt - surgery, Rev. Chris Young - broken wrist, Dana - stroke, Patti Kreilick - home and recovering, coworker's mom - heart complications after knee surgery, Matt - died from surgery complications, Addie - bone marrow transplant, for the fall Cursillo candidates.

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



Spanish Cursillo

Upcoming weekends -

Men's - March 26-29, 2020 #282

Women's April 16-19, 2020#283

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  
Sunday, October 27 7:00 PM

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

Lima St. Charles Gathering Space  
To be determined

Dale Fair (419-339-1516)  
[kfair@woh.rr.com](mailto:kfair@woh.rr.com)

Bucyrus/Crestline/Galion/  
New Washington/Bethlehem  
Bucyrus Holy Trinity.  
October 10  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

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

Findlay Ultreya  
St. Michael School- St. Michael Rm.  
Enter the east side of the complex  
Look for signs  
Monday September 16 at 7PM

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

Spanish Ultreya  
Bowling Green – St. Aloysuis  
Claire Hall  
October 19 at 1:00 p.m.

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.