

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 2017

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

Chris Powers at

Chrispowers1952@yahoo.com

with your witness.

Greetings and Blessings of this New Year to all of you my beloved sisters and brothers in Christ.

We have begun this New Year, 2017, with a renewed sense of hope and promise and many of us have sent greetings and blessing to family and friends for a happy and holy New Year. I certainly want to extend my same sentiments to all of you in our Cursillo Family.

As we are in the afterglow of the Feast of Epiphany and the Christmas Season perhaps we can learn from the Magi how to extend this hope and blessing into the whole year.

Pope Francis gives us a wonderful reflection on the Epiphany story of Matthew's Gospel.

“Like the Magi, every person has two great ‘books’ that provide signs to guide us through our pilgrimage to truth and abundant life: the book of creation, the star that guided the Magi and human reason; the Book of Scriptures, the Divine Revelation they found in Jerusalem

Imagine that following the star cost a great deal in expense of time, treasure and travel. Following the Scripture demanded even more – a costly conversion. They expected to find the new born king in Jerusalem, in a palace. Instead they find a powerful, pathetic and eventual homicidal king Herod. The Scriptures challenged them to recalculate the journey towards an insignificant village outside of Jerusalem. By humbling themselves the Magi rediscover the star and following it led them to a deeper challenge: could they recognize in a poor child – born to powerless parents the mystery of God with in us? They did! And humbly prostrated themselves in heartfelt worship.

By showing us that we encounter God personally, not by the splendor of worldly power, but by the gentleness of humble love, the Magi challenge us to an on-going conversion, to chart the course into this New Year of 2017 by the bright star of God's mercy and Jesus' Gospel of love presented this year by Matthew.

So what 'recalculation' of our lifestyle, schedule or priorities do we need to make as we begin this New Year? The Gospel challenges us to a personal encounter with our Lord Jesus – our own epiphany experience.

One epiphany tradition that can extend the Christmas spirit into the whole year is the blessing of our homes. It is a simple process of marking the inside lintel of the door of your home that is the main entrance with chalk a simple 20-C-M-B-17. 2017 of course is this year and the C,M,B stand for the traditional names of the Magi, Casper (or Gaspar), Melchior and Balthasar. It also is the blessing "*Christus mensurat benedictus*" – "Christ bless this house."

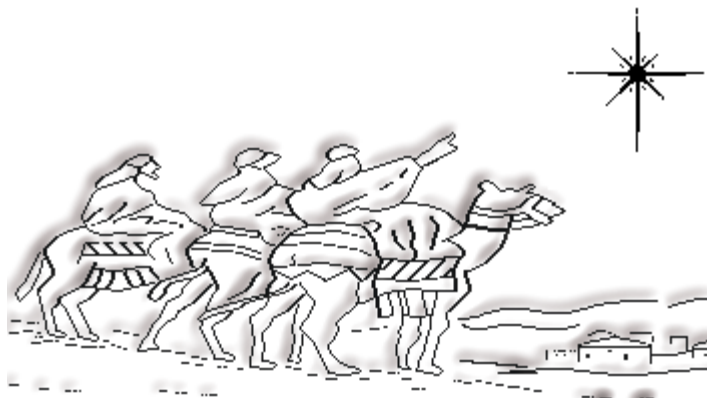
In this way you are consecrating your home, family and this year. The gifts of the Magi then become the very symbols of our family's life: GOLD –represents all the treasures of our family and home, especially our relationships as well as our valuable 'stuff.' The INCENSE stands for our prayer life and our relationship with our Lord. And the MYRRH points to the suffering, pain, disappointments that the year will certainly bring.

Each room can be sprinkled with holy water (the kids love to do this –especially each other's rooms) and a simple prayer of blessing:

*God of Bethlehem and Cana, God of Jordon's leaping waters,
in baptism You bring us into your family.
You wed us, embracing us as your beloved.
May we fill this home we have made with kindness for one another,
with hospitality to guests,
and with abundant care for every stranger.
By the gentle light of a star, guide home
all who seek You on paths of faith, hope and love
where they will join the angels in proclaiming your praise.
Glory in heaven and peace on earth now and forever.
Amen.*

May each of you be blessed in the New Year, and BE a blessing to each other and to all you meet.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Jim



From the Lay Director.....

All my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year!

First and foremost Karen and I wish to thank everyone who sent cards and prayers our way during the time of the issues with my back. The problems started clear back in April of 2016. We tried everything until the last resort, which was surgery, had to be performed. On November 21, 2016, I had surgery in two different places on my spine and now have rods and screws in four levels of my lower back. Just today (January 4th) I had a follow-up appointment with my surgeon and everything is looking good (Thank the Lord). I will be starting physical therapy soon and back to normal, whatever that means. Again thank you! Because of your thoughts and prayers, it was a lot easier for hope and praise in my spirituality.

Many of you know that Karen and I are very big into Daily Devotions from many different sources of which one is called Jesus Calling, Enjoying Peace in His Presence. Each daily devotional is written by the author, Sarah Young, in such a way that when you read it, Jesus is talking directly to you. The following is the message for starting off the New Year on January 1, 2017.

Jesus is saying to you:

COME TO ME with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. I also know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence.

AMEN

Last month in the December ARK I listed the Toledo Diocese Cursillo Highlights for Fiscal Year 2016. Let's make 2017 even a better year for building up our Lord's kingdom by being his disciples and utilizing the tool which was given to us by His Grace, The Cursillo Movement, that we as Fourth Day are all a part of as brothers and sisters in Christ.

YBIC,
Dale Fair

Pre-Cursillo News....

Save the dates:

2017 Weekends

Men's #267: March 9 - 12, 2017

Women's #268: April 20 - 23, 2017

Men's #269: Sept. 14 - 17, 2017

Women's #270: Oct. 12 - 15, 2017

2018 Weekends

Men's # 271: March 8 - 11, 2018

Women's #272: April 12 - 15, 2018

Men's #273: Sept. 13 - 16, 2018

Women's #274: Oct. 11 - 14, 2018

2017 cost for the weekend is \$195.00.

Mary Beth Lavey

Pre-Cursillo Chair

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419-704-9507

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

From the Cursillo Chair....

Peace and a Happy New Year to all. May God bless all of you as we accept the challenges and excitement of a new year. The men's team had their first meeting on Jan. 5th, and despite the weather and the devil's interference, everyone was there, praise God!

The women's team formation is going well. Their first meeting is Feb. 9th. You can call Betty Obringer, 419-447-6410, if you would like to be on the team. Members of the men's team are:

Deacon Greg Kirk

Rector: Mike Powers

Troubador: John Lyons

Bruce Alge

Mike Cherry

Greg Dobbertein

Tom Gremling

Mike Huffman

Deacon Jerry Gubernath

Asst. Rector: John Bonen

Troubador: Bill Obringer

Mark Blum

Wayne Davis

Don Evans

Tim Haney

Ray Karbowski

John Molyet
Al Ramirez Jr.
Mike Roberts
Dave Zaborski

Mark Pickett
John Reinhart
John Welch

Please pray and do palanca for the teams, candidates and sponsors of the spring weekends. Men's weekend is March 9-12, Women's is April 20-23.

Love and prayers to all.

Bill Obringer,
Cursillo Chairperson

School of Leaders

Stop! Please mark the next School of Leaders on your calendar: January 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. so you don't forget. Where? St. Michael the Archangel, 750 Bright Road, Findlay in the Teachers' Lounge
(Enter through the office door, turn right at first corridor, and then left at the next corridor; teachers' lounge is on your right.)

- Bible reflection: Joan Alge
- Spiritual Advisor Presentation: Sr. Edna "Laudato Si," Ch 4: I-V; pages 93-108. Pope Francis Encyclical Letter on care for our common home
- Lay Presentation: Dale Fair The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement; Ch. 8; Section 2 The School: Pg. 205-211; #556 - #573

Coffee and tea is provided...**feel free to bring a snack to share.** We end the morning with prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Carol Miller, SOL Rector/Secretariat Member
Team: Joan & Bruce Alge, George Miller, & Sharon DeCant

Why School of Leaders?

Greetings and Happy New Year!

As I sit here reflecting on our School of Leaders, I think of Peter and the disciples sitting on the seashore missing Jesus. (John 21:1-14) The three remarkable years spent with Jesus were over. They were so unsure of themselves going forward that they decided to return to fishing – but we know Jesus had other plans for them.

When I look back on where I was after my Cursillo weekend, the similarities are striking. I returned to my environments a little lost about sharing what I had

learned. Of course, I found that the Cursillo movement has a system to guide us, not only through grouping and Ultreyas, but also through the School of Leaders. The name is misleading, for this school is not just for leaders of the movement – it is for the formation and spiritual growth of all Cursillistas.

Interaction at the School of Leaders forms us in holiness as we strive to become saints. I can tell you that the Spirit is present at these sessions as we share our life experiences and encourage each other to follow Christ's way of life. These "reunions" are centered on Christ and the Cursillo Movement, with the focal points of piety, study and action. As an added bonus we become "family" as we get to know each other better.

The School of Leaders offers opportunities for formation to prepare ourselves for the field of action. The result is a deeper spiritual growth in us, the Church. Formation is necessary for spiritual growth. We study to know more truths and to confirm these truths under the direction of our Spiritual Advisors. We depend on the spiritual formation we obtain outside of SOL through Mass and the sacraments, quiet time with the Lord, and Scripture. We add to this formation through review of society's values, good and bad, to become aware of what needs to be done to bring the Gospel message to the world. From these discussions we form a social conscience that works with our knowledge of the truths of Christianity. It is through our knowing both sides of the equation that the desire to share God's message with others grows in us and we can accept the call to be disciples for Christ.

We are at the beginning of a new year reflecting on ways to improve ourselves and setting resolutions. I encourage you to schedule yourself to attend the School of Leaders as a good start. The school is designed for our spiritual growth. It is offered to all Cursillistas to assist in discovering our individual vocation, to accept it, and to grow in it. Through this process we become leaders, not only in the movement, but especially in our communities and various environments.

Please don't be deceived by the name "School of Leaders", for it is offered only for the Spiritual growth of all who attend.

The School of Leaders meets at Findlay St. Michael's Church the third Saturday of each month from 9:00am to 12:00pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

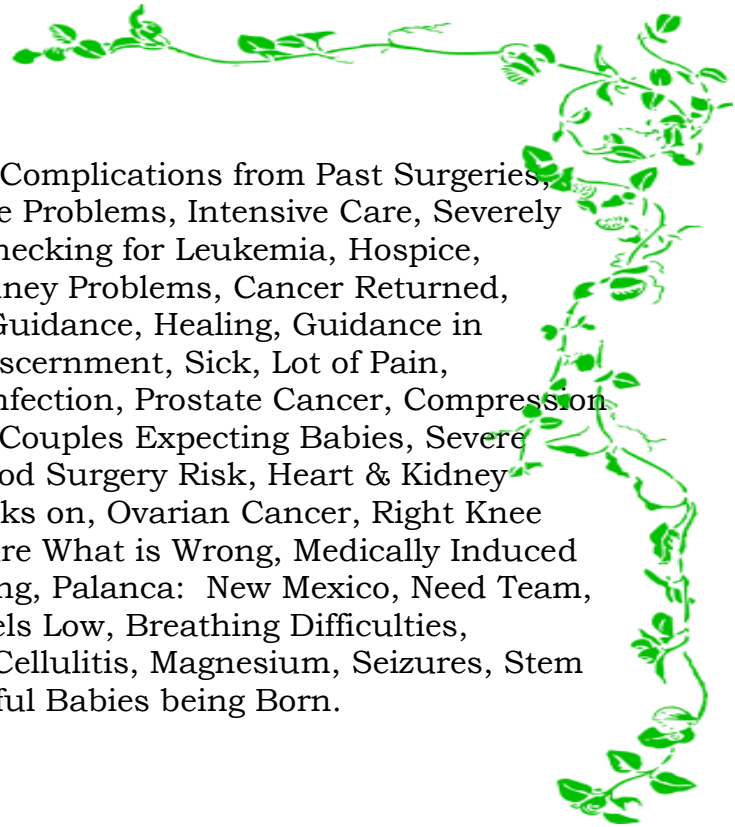
De Colores!

Chris Powers

Prayervine

December Prayers:

Knee Surgery, Serious Health Issues, Serious Complications from Past Surgeries, Rest in Peace, Emotional Issues, Auto Immune Problems, Intensive Care, Severely Dehydrated, Hemoglobin Dangerously Low, Checking for Leukemia, Hospice, Heart Attacks, Thyroid Removed, Dialysis, Kidney Problems, Cancer Returned, Treatment, Life Flighted, Seizures, Strength, Guidance, Healing, Guidance in Marriage, Parenting, Trust Jesus, Plans for Discernment, Sick, Lot of Pain, Hospital, Blood Counts, MRI, Vertigo, Sinus Infection, Prostate Cancer, Compression Fracture in Lower Back, Heroin Overdose, All Couples Expecting Babies, Severe Leakage in Heart Valve, Low Energy, Not a Good Surgery Risk, Heart & Kidney Problems, Wondering Little Boy with Only Socks on, Ovarian Cancer, Right Knee Replacement, Blood Clot Behind Knee, Not Sure What is Wrong, Medically Induced Coma, Performing Tests, Few People Supporting, Palanca: New Mexico, Need Team, Cancer, Weak Heart, Pneumonia, Oxygen Levels Low, Breathing Difficulties, Marriage, Right Decisions, Health, Bad Cold, Cellulitis, Magnesium, Seizures, Stem Cell Transplant, New Life, Please Pray, Beautiful Babies being Born.



Ultreya

Location

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

Tiffin, St. Francis Home
January 22nd, 7pm

Lima St. Charles Gathering Space
To Be Determined

Bucyrus/Crestline/Galion/
New Washington/Bethlehem
2nd Wednesday of the Month 7:30PM

Spanish Ultreya/SS Peter & Paul Church
728 S. St. Clair St., Toledo
1st Saturday of the Month, Noon

Contact

Ron and Carol Plenzler
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kfair@woh.rr.com

Connie Kehres
blessedarewe37@gmail.com

Juan & Ramona Duran
camposduran54@yahoo.com

Words of Wisdom...



"Everyone who breathes...has a mission, has a work. We are not sent into this world for nothing; we are not born at random...God sees every one of us; He creates every soul...for a purpose. As Christ has His work, we too have ours; as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice in ours also."
---St. John Neumann

"A man knows when he has found his vocation when he stops thinking about how to live and begins to live."
— Thomas Merton



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.toledocursillo.org

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

To request prayers from our fourth day community, email Barb Grycza: faith2co57@bex.net or faith2co57@buckeye-express.com.