

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.

February 2017

Application Forms are on the Website:

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

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Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago I saw the newly released film, **Hidden Figures**. It tells the incredible untold story of Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) - brilliant African-American women who worked at NASA in the early '60s, and who served as the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. The recognition of their talent, however, came ever so slowly, and they suffered the prejudice that still throws doubt on the mental acuity of anyone who is a woman and who is black. Because February is Black History Month; because racial tension has seen a new rise in fear and violence in our country, and because the Gospel consistently calls us to welcome and love our neighbor, I want to reflect with you on what may be going on in us.

Do you remember the book, and later the film, **Black Like Me**? A Caucasian journalist, Howard Griffin, has his skin temporarily darkened and travels through the states in the Deep South around 1960, to find out firsthand how he will be treated. Not long ago I imagined myself as a black mother of two sons, ages 14 and 8, living in a poor black neighborhood on Chicago's south side. I pictured myself teaching them to respect their elders, to help those less fortunate than themselves, to be honest and to stand tall in their own dignity as beloved children of God. Each day as they left for school I sent a prayer, mixed with worry, for their safety because I knew there were gangs in their school. Recent incidents with the police who patrolled this part of the city gave me additional reason to fear that one of my sons might be threatened, beaten or shot if they looked askance at an officer. Each evening I breathed a sigh of relief to see them return safely and with no reports of being bullied, spat upon, robbed, kicked, tormented.... or arrested. I want them to believe that they have worth and talents that will contribute to society. I want to protect them from harm and hatred. Isn't that what every mother, every parent wants for their children?

There are not many jobs here; I work as a cleaning lady in a downtown office. I did well as a student myself and was hoping to get an accounting job in one of those offices, but they told me cleaning was the only job they would offer me

Please share how Christ is working in your life.

Email

Chris Powers at

**Chrispowers1952@
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with your witness.

“because of my credentials.” It’s hard to feed two growing sons on what I get paid, besides paying the rent. Life gets pretty hard sometimes; I thank God for my faith. I trust he sees my heart and not just the disfavored color of my skin.

This morning, shortly after I sent my sons out the door to school, I heard police sirens. I ran out into the street and then heard gunshots. My heart raced; my motherly instinct pulled me, terrorized to the scene. There lay my son, my beautiful 8 year old son. I think I died that day also....

Terrorism comes in many shades. It has darkened our country with extreme fear and anger since September 11, 2001. But for our black brothers and sisters, terrorism has been their history since the arrival of the first slave ships in the 1600s. Enslavement, rape, lynching, burning at the stake, being treated as ‘less than’, being shot ‘as a preventive measure’ or to teach a lesson, being ridiculed, demeaned, and shunned. *What are we doing? What will it take to work through our fears and prejudices to meet the real person behind the dark skin? Dare we believe that these are our brothers and sisters, that we share the same humanity and thus, God’s dignity? What am I doing about my own prejudice? (and no copping out by denying that I am prejudiced.)*

I wish you some discomfort this month, for we are all sinners in need of God’s mercy and enlightenment.

Sr. Edna



From the Lay Director.....

All my brothers and sisters in Christ,

During the last School of Leaders held January 21, 2017, we were blessed with 26 participants for the School. I gave a Lay Presentation and afterwards was asked to share a little bit about it in the next ARK newsletter. I discerned over what part I would include because, after all, my presentation was almost three pages long, and I don't think that would be a proper submission. Because of this, I decided that I would just give a brief summary of the day so that everyone can experience what happens at our Cursillo School -- just in case you are curious, wish to attend and want to get that little spark that rekindles that fire we all need in our heart for the Lord. All I can say is come and see!

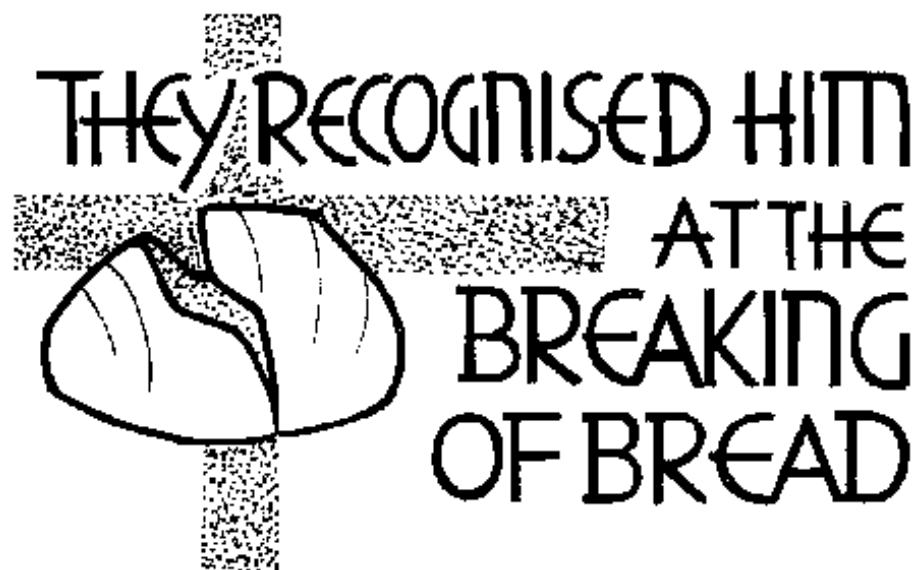
- The day started out with an opening song from the troubadours with everyone singing along. It was wonderful as always, praise to our Lord.
- Opening Prayer.
- Next we had a Scripture reading from Joan Alge, Hebrews 4, vs. 12-16, and a reflection on what the verses mean to her. We then had a great open discussion on what the reading means to us.
- Grouping in sets of three then followed with the subject being - How is your piety with all the Presidential 'stuff' that has been happening? There was great discussion in our small groups and also something to think about if you haven't yet!
- Another wonderful song from our troubadours that we all joined in on.
- Sister Edna gave a presentation on Integral Ecology of 'Laudato Si' written by Pope Francis. She explained that everything is related or interrelated on this planet and we must take care of God's creations. In Genesis - On the last day we were created...that means all creatures, it isn't always about us people. Everything is related, we are all hand in hand with creation. One example given was that we all need oxygen to live. We would use the oxygen up if we didn't have plants, etc. that make it...everything work together. Because of all this interaction, we can't change one thing without it affecting other things. This was just a brief example of Sr. Edna's presentation that was very interesting and reminded us that caring for our world is a responsibility we all have. We must always remember... It's God's world, NOT ours, we just happen to be in it.
- Break that included additional coffee and snacks that were provided by the attendees.
- Another song was led by our troubadours which got us all back together to sing and praise.
- Lay Presentation by me...Dale Fair: "The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement" - The topic being about the School, of which I have been speaking; but not about what goes on there, but what its purpose is in the Cursillo Movement. The School prepares us, its leaders, and yes we are all leaders by our baptism so don't say you're not! The School prepares us, its leaders, for our apostolate in a way that is distinctive to the Movement. Though the School is an essential part of the Movement, there are no set rules concerning how it is organized or how it operates. The School is an essential part of our Movement that must always be flexible enough in our structure (the way it is set up) and

our operation (the ways its activities take place) to accommodate our Diocesan needs. Therefore, it is not possible for all The Schools to be alike. The School is a group of Christians that, united by and in a climate of Group Reunion, seek to be more centered, more committed, more conjoined, to accelerate and bring to life the fundamentals of being a Christian in oneself, in the Cursillo Movement and in our environments. This is accomplished with one same mentality - the mentality of Christ. The strategy of the school is to have an authentic and truly effective Cursillo Movement served by a group of leaders, yes all of us Cursillistas, who exemplify everything the movement is supposed to be. The purpose and essence of the School is to have a core group of Cursillo leaders who have chosen to serve within the Movement as our apostolic vocation. Let us remember - One is not a leader because one is in School. One is in School because one is a leader. Discussion followed. People often say - I don't want to be responsible or in charge. WE DON'T WORK ON A TEAM....WE SERVE ON A TEAM. This is a great attitude for serving our Lord. Amen, Amen!!!!

- Section reports were presented with comments and actions.
- Closing Prayer.
- Everyone helped to pick up and rearrange the conference room to its original condition.
- We then proceeded to the Chapel for prayers of petition before the Blessed Sacrament with the final request being a safe trip home for everyone.
- Well, in closing, I hope you got a little glimpse of the School and how it all works. In reality, the School is just a big friendship grouping that comes together to increase our spirituality, learn more about the movement and help to keep the movement alive and well. As I said before, COME AND SEE!!!!!! We would love to have you and whatever you do don't forget about all the hugs!!!!

De Colores!

Your Brother in Christ,
Dale Fair



Pre-Cursillo News....

Dear Fourth Day:

Cursillo # 267 currently has 5 confirmed candidates:

Dick Miller Bucyrus Ohio
Jim Patterson Galion Ohio
Toby Smith Bucyrus Ohio
John Shuler Galion Ohio
Corey Webster Mansfield Ohio

Added candidates will be posted on the prayer vine along with these 5 men, so keep checking the prayer vine.

Save the dates: 2017 Weekends
Men's #267: March 9 - 12, 2017
Women's #268: April 20 - 23, 2017

2017 cost for the weekend is \$195.00.
Mary Beth Lavey Pre-Cursillo Chair
1014 Shorewood Dr. Fremont Ohio 43420
mblavey@gmail.com 419-704-9507

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

From the Cursillo Chair....

Peace and God's blessings to all of you!

I thank God for the Cursillo movement and pray for all those on the prayer vine. May you feel God's loving and healing touch. I have been reading Pope Francis' book, The Joy of Love, Amoris Laetitia, and it reminds me of how important love in the family is; not just my own family, but the Cursillo family as well. I love you all so much!

The men's and women's team formations are underway and all is well. There is a good mix of newer Cursillistas and more experienced ones which is always good. The Holy Spirit is truly at work blessing this Toledo diocese with a strong movement. Please watch the prayer vine for a list of team members. Men's weekend is March 9-12, Women's is April 20-23.

YBIC Bill Obringer.

School of Leaders

Saturday, February 18, 9:00 a.m., is the next School of Leaders.

St. Michael the Archangel, 750 Bright Road, Findlay in the school 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.)

- Chris Powers - Bible reading and lead the reflection
- Fr. Ed - "Laudato Si" - Chapter 5, I-II, pages 109-120
- Kathy Otermat - "The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement" - Ch. 8, Section 3,
The Secretariats: Pages 211-215, #574 - #589

NOTE to the new Cursillistas:

You and your Sponsors are invited to School of Leaders on February 18. (Refer to more dates below) This is a great way to gain more knowledge about Cursillo and to meet and bond with other Cursillistas! Two new Cursillistas attended the January 21 SOL: Donna Laubie #264 from Crestline sponsored by Karen Bonen and Ray Karbowski, Jr. #263 from Lima sponsored by Jim Powell.

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

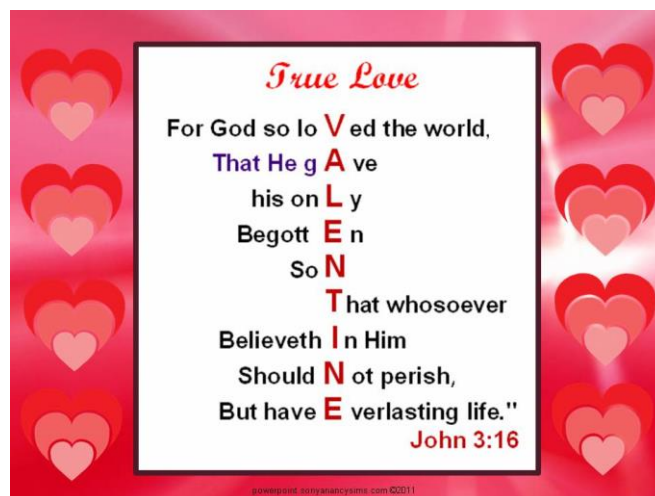
2017 SOL Dates - Please place these dates on your calendar:

February 18	March 18	April 22	May 20
June 17 - Focus Day	July 23 - Picnic/Ultreya	August 19	
September 16	October 21	November 18 - Focus Day.	

No SOL held in December

Carol Miller, SOL Rector/Secretariat Member

Team: Joan & Bruce Alge, George Miller, & Sharon DeCant



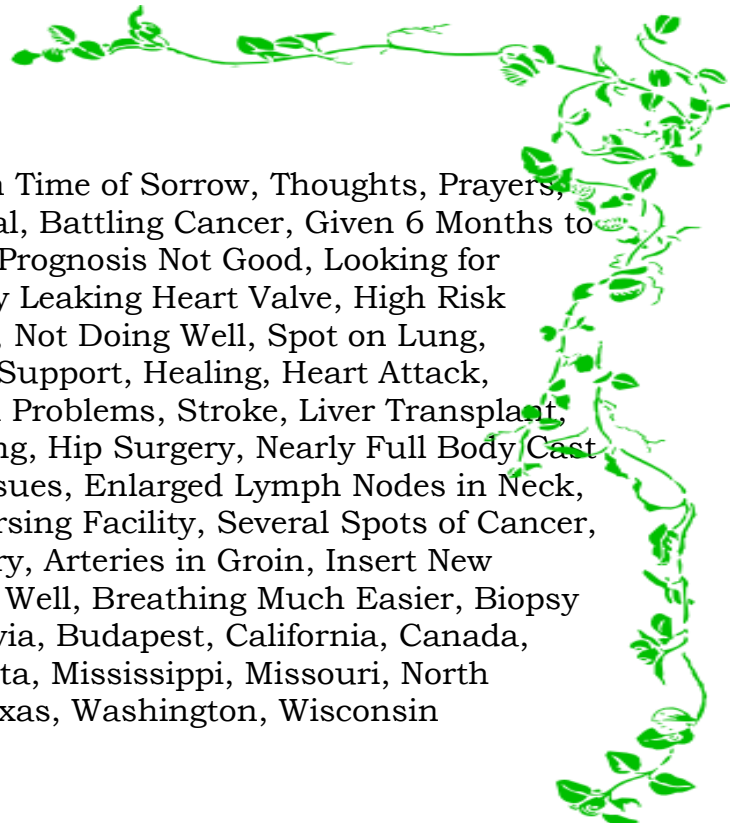
Please welcome the new Cursillistas from the Spanish Women's Cursillo #267

Gracie Salcido St. Wendelin, Fostoria	Maribel Gonzalez Perry St. Aloysius, BG	Alma Varela St. Aloysius, BG
Josefina Gutierrez St. Casper, Wauseon	Guadalupe Gutierrez St. Casper, Wauseon	Emma Urbina St. Peter & Paul, Toledo
Olga Moreno St. Ann's, Fremont	Maricela Gutierrez St. Mary's, Adrian, MI	Juanita Sandoval St. Casper, Wauseon
Reyna Garcia St. Casper, Wauseon	Monica Montoya Regina Coeli, Toledo	Petra Hernandez St. Michael's, Gibsonbg
Nancy Chavez St. Casper, Wauseon	Patricia Cabrera St. Mary's, Adrian, MI	Lucia Arellano Our Lady of Lourdes
Elizabeth Garcia St. Francis Xavier, Willard	Imelda Ortega St. Paul, Norwalk	Juana Yopez St. Mary's, Adrian, MI
Maricruz Martinez St. Casper, Wauseon	Rebecca Escobado St. Peter & Paul, Toledo	

Prayervine

February Prayers

Torn ACL, Accident, Rest in Peace, Blessings in Time of Sorrow, Thoughts, Prayers, End Stage of Life, High Blood Pressure, Hospital, Battling Cancer, Given 6 Months to Live, Bi-Polar, Hurting, In a Bad Way, Cancer, Prognosis Not Good, Looking for Miracles, Treatment of Heart Ailment, Seriously Leaking Heart Valve, High Risk Patient, No Candidate for Open Heart, Hospice, Not Doing Well, Spot on Lung, Pneumonia, Healing Stem Cells Transplanted, Support, Healing, Heart Attack, Critical Condition with 2 Boys at Home, Health Problems, Stroke, Liver Transplant, Bleeding, Code Blue, Colon Surgery, Daily Living, Hip Surgery, Nearly Full Body Cast for a 6th Month Old, Close to a Year, Health Issues, Enlarged Lymph Nodes in Neck, Strokes in Eye, Ulcer, Open Heart Surgery, Nursing Facility, Several Spots of Cancer, Domestic Violence, Lymphedema, Colon Surgery, Arteries in Groin, Insert New Artificial Valve in Heart, Heart Procedure Went Well, Breathing Much Easier, Biopsy Negative, Lung Cancer, Palanca: Arizona, Bolivia, Budapest, California, Canada, Florida, Italy, Mexico, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Peru, Philippines, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin



Utreya

Location

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

Tiffin, St. Francis Home
February 26th, 7pm
Holy Hour ½ hr, Palanca Party

Lima St. Charles Gathering Space
To Be Determined

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

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

Contact

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Connie Kehres
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Juan & Ramona Duran
camposduran54@yahoo.com

Words of Wisdom...



If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20

"A fearful Christian is a person who has not understood the message of Jesus." Pope Francis

"Our true nationality is mankind." H.G. Wells

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.