

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 to form small Christian Communities to deepen Spirituality in ourselves and in others.

November 2016

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

**Chripowers1952@
yahoo.com**

with your witness.

My dear Friends in Christ,

In the Women's three day Cursillo "retreat", the spiritual director has a pastoral option to provide at Morning Prayer on Saturday a meditation on Mary of Nazareth. I have always used this option when on team and it has proven powerful, grace-filled.

My own conversion to Mary, acknowledging her as a flesh and blood woman with an awesome faith pilgrimage, dates to 2002 through the care of a woman retreat director in Farmington Hills, MI. Then and there, Mary revealed herself to me most intimately. Since that time, my awareness of, and love for her has deepened. One of the fruits of that deepening has been the privilege and honor of offering the Saturday meditation by imagining Mary's life through the Scriptures.

St Luke and St John both provide insight into her roles as one called to be faithful daughter and betrothed, kinswoman, spouse, mother, disciple, widow, childless mother, dependent upon another, and finally, Queen Mother. Mary is revealed as honest, authentic, and yet human in grappling with life, much of it ordinary, with no preview of how it would turn out. She chose to be faithful in the moment, participating with the assistance of pervasive grace. She learned to ponder, not resist, the call she received, then take the next steps in answering that call, and repeat it again, always surrendering to God as His servant, letting it be done according to His Word. Her Son, Jesus, would teach his disciples to pray in a very similar fashion as they learned to say "Father, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done...."

At Cana when wine ran low at a wedding feast, Mary and Jesus both interacted in the back room with the wait staff. Mary laid the need before Jesus. "Son, they have no wine." Turning to the servants (the *diaconos*), Mary cued them (and us) to do whatever He tells you. Jesus in turn addressed the servants to fill the jars with water and generosity mirrored that of Mary as they filled their vessels to the brim. More than wine flowed. Miracles poured forth.

Mary consistently listened and accepted, not without much lifelong reflection and pondering, the gift of her life, destined to be mother of God, and eventually, our Queen Mother. She is a remarkable witness to the depth of the life

of God within each of us. She is a compelling woman shaped by suffering, love, death, and resurrection. She is ever one with us, laying our needs before Jesus, as we ask her to pray for us now and at the hour of our death, and the deaths of our loved ones. She faithfully remembers us and companions us in our distresses. Do you recall the Memorare? Remember your Mother. "Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary...."

I encourage you to stay true to your own conversions, to your deepening understandings of grace, the God-life, fellowship, prayer, living faithfully and responsively in the environments shaping your current life. May our fidelity to the grace life be a source of strength for our Church and our world.

Ultreya.

Sr. Mary Jo Szpila, SND

From the Lay Director.....

All my brothers and sisters in Christ,

The subject I am going to address this month in our newsletter is the reality that costs continue to escalate with doing God's will in putting on Cursillo weekends. I know what you're thinking -- he is going to be asking for money and that just turns me off and I don't want to hear it! No, that is not the purpose of this article at all. Let me explain!

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, our host facility for Cursillo weekends, has over the years continued to raise their prices and justifiably so if they are going to keep their doors open with the inflation of their operating costs, as with all businesses. When we started getting concerned was when the Pines raised their price to \$200 per person in 2013. The Secretariat decided to continue charging \$185 and make up the difference from our general funds at \$15 for each person on the weekend - Team Members and Candidates. In 2016, the Pines raised their price to \$210 per person. Again the Secretariat elected to only charge \$185 and then we were subsidizing \$25 each. Starting in 2017, the cost is increasing to \$220 per person; and if we continue our subsidy of \$25, the individual's out-of-pocket cost would be \$195. Believe me when I say \$195 is a good chunk of money; but on the flip side, we can be traveling on vacation, stop at a motel and sleep for five to six hours, and give them \$100 or more with little thought....and we would still have the additional cost for meals. Remember on the Cursillo weekends, we are staying three nights in a private room, eating eight meals with tons of snacks, and spending time with people who love us unconditionally. Best of all we are growing closer in our personal relationship with Christ which is priceless, don't you agree?

What I also want to let you know is that with our subsidy and with all our other operating costs increasing, our General Fund is decreasing faster than we would like. It has become a concern that we as Secretariat want to share with the 4th day. We are not broke yet; but at the current rate of operating in a deficit on every weekend, we may be in a couple of years. Therefore, let's head this off so it doesn't happen! This is not unique to our Diocese by any means and was a topic of concern at the last Region V meeting that I attended with representatives from five different states.

The Secretariat is asking for volunteers to be on an Ad Hoc Committee that would be tasked to research and look for possible alternatives for a weekend facility and/or money-making projects that will allow us to stay where we are presently. The committee would then make recommendations for consideration so that our movement can continue to thrive and build up the kingdom of our Lord. If you are interested, have some ideas, and wish to make a difference, please contact Dale Fair at 419-339-1516, or email me at kfair@woh.rr.com.

In closing, if you have been blessed abundantly and desire to make a contribution towards this beautiful movement, please contact me and arrangements can be made.

The reality is that costs continue to escalate with doing God's will and putting on wonderful weekends such as this. Please pray about it and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in your decisions. Thank you in advance for your generous support. God bless.

YBIC,
Dale Fair

Pre-Cursillo News....

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3: 15-17

Dear Fourth Day. As the Thanksgiving Holiday approaches let us pray for one another, be thankful for our blessings and for the support we experience, through one another through our prayers and Palanca.

Special thanks to the sponsors of the past men's and women's Cursillo's:

Men's Cursillo 263 sponsors: Jim Powell, Gus Miller & Monte Huss, Don Evans, Bill Obringer & Sr. Edna, Tim Distel and finally Deacon Jerry Gubernath

Women's Cursillo 264 sponsors: Krista Gonzales-Luce, Mary Lyons, Karen Bonen, Annie Blum, Sr. Claudia Bronsing, Jane Distel and Deacon Jerry Guthernath.

Save the date:

Men's Cursillo # 267 March 9 – 12, 2017

Women's Cursillo # 268 April 20 – 23

The cost of the Cursillo weekend will be \$**195.00** in 2017.

Please send candidate and sponsor applications to:

Mary Beth Lavey, Pre-Cursillo Chair

1014 Shorewood Dr.

Fremont Ohio 43420

mblavey@gmail.com

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

From the Cursillo Chair....

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

My name is Bill Obringer I am the new Cursillo Chairperson. I pray that all is well with you. My thoughts and prayers are with you, and I ask for your prayers for me as well as I take on this new responsibility.

Currently we are planning for the upcoming men's and women's weekends, March 9-12 and April 20-23 respectively. If you feel called to work the spring weekends please send me an application within the next few weeks. Men's rectors are Mike Powers and John Bonen, I don't know the women's rectors yet. My address is

Bill Obringer
3930 ECR 50
Tiffin, OH 44883
wobringer@woh.rr.com

May God bless you!
YBIC
Bill

School of Leaders

Saturday, November 19, School of Leaders, 9:00 a.m.

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.*)

- Scripture reading and reflection: Deacon George Miller
- Spiritual Advisor's Presentation: Sr. Edna, "Laudato Si," Ch 3: I, II, III; pages 69-91. Pope Francis Encyclical Letter on care for our common home
- Lay Presentation: Chris Powers, "The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement" Ch. 8; Section 1-2: The School, Pg. 199-205; #527 - #555

NOTE to the new Cursillistas who lived the September and October Cursillo weekends:

You and your Sponsors are invited to School of Leaders on November 19th. This is a great way to gain more knowledge about Cursillo and to meet and bond with other Cursillistas!

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, Jim Powell & Sharon DeCant

Sherry Weddell Workshop...

Hello to the Cursillistas who attended the Sherry Weddell Workshop on October 15th.

This is a reminder: At the Sherry Weddell workshop on October 15, I suggested to most of you that it would be great if you could write a short paragraph about the workshop so it could be published in the November ARK. You can share anything about the workshop that meant a lot to you, a close moment or whatever you would like to share with other Cursillistas.

*Please send your article/paragraph to Chris Powers by November 8th so she has time to prepare the ARK to send out around November 10th. Her e-mail address is:
chrispowers1952@yahoo.com*

*Sending my Thanks to all of you for inspiring and witnessing to other Cursillistas!
Blessings,
Carol – SOL Rector. Secretariat Member*

While attending the Sherry Weddell Workshop on October 15, 2016, in Findlay, Ohio, Sherry talked about her book Forming Intentional Disciples (The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus). Sherry talked a lot about the different stages of spiritual growth that we need to accomplish during this short time we have here on this earth and how to become and maintain Intentional Discipleship. Sherry also spoke on how our personal relationship with Christ must always be growing (Piety), how we need to know about what Jesus is teaching us by his word and actions (Study), and then share his and our story with others so they may also have peace, joy and love in their lives (Action).

After going through the workshop and listening to what Sherry Weddell had to say, it just reinforced that what we are doing in our Cursillo Movement is exactly what needs to be done for Forming Intentional Disciples and that our personal witnesses are often the only book someone may ever read.

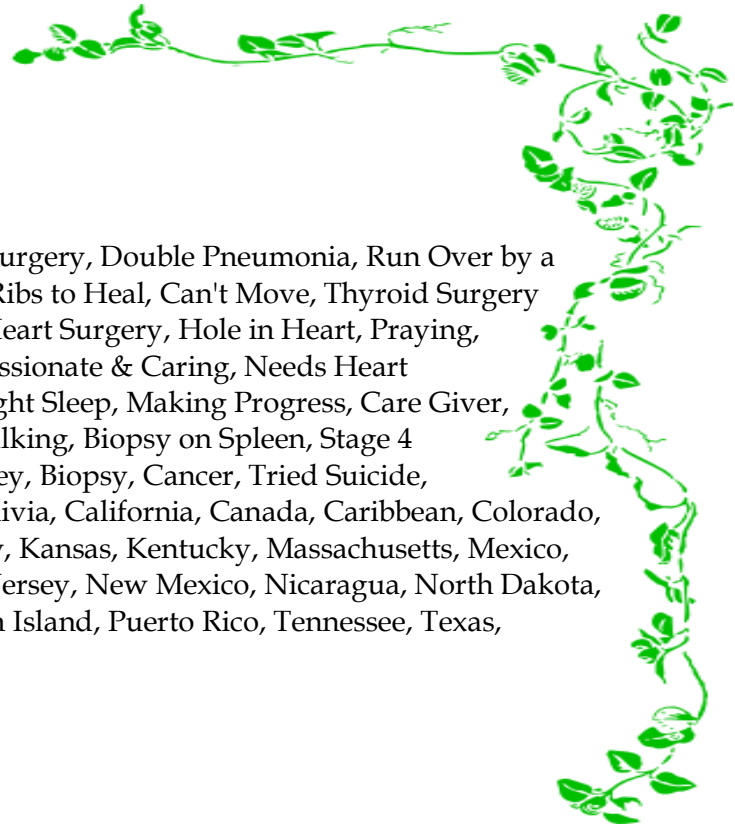
DeColores!
YBIC,
Dale Fair



Prayervine

October Prayers

Alzheimer, Stomach Issues, Rest in Peace, Gallbladder Surgery, Double Pneumonia, Run Over by a Car in Australia, Broken Ribs, Induced Coma to Allow Ribs to Heal, Can't Move, Thyroid Surgery, Lost Voice, Procedure on Vocal Cords to Work Again, Heart Surgery, Hole in Heart, Praying, Routine Operation, Serious Surgery, Needs New Job, Passionate & Caring, Needs Heart Transplant, Blood to Thin, Lots of Pain, Needs Good Night Sleep, Making Progress, Care Giver, Diabetic Disease Progressing, Can't Work, Difficulty Walking, Biopsy on Spleen, Stage 4 Cancer, Massive Stroke, Colon Surgery, Tumor on Kidney, Biopsy, Cancer, Tried Suicide, Family Saved Him, Cursillo and Palanca's: Arizona, Bolivia, California, Canada, Caribbean, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hungary, Illinois, Indiana, Italy, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nicaragua, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Prince William Island, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Vietnam, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C.,



Ultreya

Location

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

Tiffin, St. Francis Home
November 20th, 7:00pm

Lima St. Gerard's Spirituality Center
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
carron@buckeye-access.com

Betty and Bill Obringer
wobringer@woh.rr.com

Dale Fair
kfair@woh.rr.com

Connie Kehres
blessedarewe37@gmail.com

Juan & Ramona Duran
camposduran54@yahoo.com

Faithful Witness...

I'm having some health issues right now and need to rest and not get too stressed out, so I decided to get my box of Palanca Letters out. I have saved every one I received and decided that I would take them to the burning barrel and offer up all of those prayers that were offered up to me for the needs of our country right now. I guess that might be "recycling". (Many of them were very special and difficult for me to burn!) Many of the friends are now in their "5th Day".

So I took our golf cart out to the burning barrel with my box of Palanca letters and as I put them in the fire, I prayed for the person that had sent me the letter. As I walked from the golf cart to the burning barrel, I prayed in thanksgiving for the Palanca that they did for me. "For the sake of His sorrowful passion , have Mercy on us, ----- and on the whole world."

So to all of you that ever sent me a Palanca letter over the many weekends that I was a team member, I spent some time in prayer for you, reusing your prayers for our country. I hope you felt it. I was very tired when I brought the golf cart back to the garage..... and it was a "good" tired. It is always good for me to do something for someone else.

By the time you read this, we will have a new President of the United States of America. PRAY---PRAY -----PRAY !!!!!

Utreya,
Pat Miller



Words of Wisdom...

Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude. ~ E.P. Powell, American author & journalist

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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.