

Buffalo Cursillo

February Newsletter

Lay Coordinator's Report:

Hi from Sunny Florida,

Well we lived through a tornado warning last week! :) Thankfully it skirted around us. I mentioned last year that Joan and I fell in love with the Parish we attend down here, St Joseph's. Sunday's homily struck me with many concerns. I think it will affect you as well. Fr. Tom quoted a document written by (forgot his name J) and basically it referred to a question "Are you a Christian or a fan?" This, gentlemen started out by stating there are over 300 million people in the United States and 75% of them are supposedly Christians. He went on to say that there are about 120,000 children waiting to be adopted, many, many, many abortions occurring every day, people killing each other all around the country, thousands of people that are homeless have no food or clothing, rapes, robberies and many other atrocities happening all over our country yet there are 244 million Christians...OR are there? Many people attend Mass weekly yet do nothing else to help their fellow man. Are they Christians or just fans of Jesus? Are they following the teachings of Jesus or are they just fans for what he accomplished? I'm not sure if I got all of what Fr. Tom said but hopefully the message he was trying to convey.

This got me thinking about whether we as Cursillistas, are doing enough. On our weekend you may recall: "Christ is counting on you" and your reply was: "I am counting on Christ". Are we doing our part? Are we

evangelizing our square meter? Are we volunteering to help the less fortunate? Are we fighting abortions, are we considering the children that have no family? The homeless> the forgotten? And YES again?
Are we evangelizing our square meter?

We have weekends scheduled this spring and the teams are in formation. Please do your part to make these weekends a success.

NOTE: The 27th National Encounter & 60th celebration of Cursillo in the USA is just around the corner. The dates are: 7/27-30 in San Antonio, TX. The cost is \$340 per person. If interested please contact me.

All in God's name,

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Spiritual Director's Reflection:

- Trying to do the right thing to truly please God?
- Or, just doing something to impress others?
- Or, are we doing something for our own benefit
- Or to draw positive attention to ourselves?

Whether we have a clean heart, or not, affects so many other areas of our life. Do we treat people in our everyday circumstances with a clean/pure heart? Do we interact with others in a self-centered and/or self-serving manner?

Here's an example: Have you ever observed a conversation that sounds like this?

- You tell me about your vacation. Then I tell you about my great vacation.
 - You tell me about your children. Then I tell you about my great children.
 - You tell me about your grandchildren. Then I tell you about my great grandchild.
- When we communicate like this - are we interacting with a clean heart?

Do we really care enough to truly listen to the other person and find out more?

About them and what they are trying to convey?

Or, have we really tuned them out so we can mentally line up our list of things

To say and we're just waiting for our turn to one-up them?

We even use this same parallel communication technique when we argue.

Does this sound familiar?

- You tell me about something I did wrong. Then I'm going to tell you about something you did wrong toward me.
- You tell me how I can't do anything right. Then I tell you how you are Always slighting me...

These parallel conversations just escalate from there without a hope of ever

Probing deeper to understand:

- Why the other person is upset
- Whether this is a simple misunderstanding or not
- What I can do to calm the person down and to remedy the situation now

God bless!

Deacon Greg Moran
Spiritual Advisor—Diocese of Buffalo

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Cursillo

Help Wanted!

Our Spring Weekends are coming up fast. Have you been doing your part with your action?

Men's Weekend – April 20th – 23rd

Women's Weekend – May 18th – 21st

We are in need of Candidates and we are also looking for a couple or group of people to take over the Kitchen. Please contact me if you are interested. 982-8025

OUR SECTION MEETING WAS NOT VERY WELL ATTENDED. Please try to attend the next one we need your input. Spring weekends will be here before you know it. The Men's Team has already been picked and will be having their first Professors School Meeting shortly. They are a dynamite team and I know they will do well. The Women's Team Selectors will be starting to make calls this month, so be ready. Lastly, many, many THANKS to Bill Gross, Lisa Gauthier and Linda Piskun for helping us reorganize our store room.

PEACE!!

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Post Cursillo

Second Touch 2017 was an Amazing "Grace" filled Weekend! The weekend began with prayer & dedicating the weekend on "Grace" to Mary's Immaculate Heart. So appropriate, as she is the Mediatrix of all Grace. Many prayers were offered, all weekend, through invoking the Holy Spirit, during Adoration, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary, Stations, Liturgy of hours, & Holy Mass. We were blessed to have Buffalo Cursillo's Spiritual Advisor Dcn. Greg Moran & "several", seven deacon's total, present most of the Rollo's. Recent Cursillista Fr. Jacek Mazur, shared his devotion & knowledge of God's great mercy. How, out of mercy, God showers us with His abundant grace. He and all the presenters gave us a deeper understanding of this year's theme, "God's Grace." We were encouraged to share our own thoughts & insights in the group discussions following each Rollo. An image of grace, that Maria Boyle shared, was that of a waterfall.....to which another commented God's graces are even more powerful than Niagara Falls. That was easy to picture, especially being at the Stella Niagara Renewal Center, with the "Falls" nearby! Bob Piskun was the facilitator for the weekend, & ended with "open mic" as a wrap up & final time of sharing. During this time, a certain Deacon shared that when thinking of grace as God's "help", music began playing in his head, from a famous Beatle's song title, "Help".....which had words that surprisingly fit in with the

understanding of God's help...LOOK THEM UP!

Thank you to all the team & to all who took the time to attend. A special thank you to Carol Palesh for bringing 25 yrs. of Cursillo wisdom to our Movement through the Second Touch weekends.

+++May God's Grace continue to work through the many generous, open hearts who attend, who share & live out their love of Christ & of Cursillo!
"Onward!!!"

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School of Leaders

I hope everyone is staying warm this winter. Just a few more months and it will be spring.

A recap of our last School of Leaders last meeting in January, Deacon Greg continued his presentation on developing interpersonal skills. He went into more information on different personalities and how to respond to them. These are all great tips for us to consider when evangelizing. Pat Tower gave us a great presentation on the Regional Secretariat. Thank you, Pat. At our next School we will continue the study of all of Cursillo. Deacon Gary Terrana will give us an overview of the National Cursillo We will meet at St. Vincent's in Elma at 6:30 on Feb.20th hope to see you there. Please check Channels 2, 4 and 7 for weather cancellations.

Ultreya Witness

Diane Putt

Please pray with me – my dear Heavenly Father, you are always by my side – watching over me. So much of what you do for me sneaks by – please allow me to sense you at work in the mist of the chaos and busyness of my life. Please allow me to see you at work in the distractions so that I might trust in your ways; especially when they are not my ways. Amen. When Paul took sick, God was watching over us. There were so many things to think about and consider and like any person, YOU start coming up with a plan to get from point A to point B. There were so many components to think about – the game plan for helping Paul (with all the appointments and trips to Roswell), could I find a job that would replace Paul’s income or how could we live on our meager savings. I knew my ability to juggle getting Paul to his appointments, me getting a job earning Paul’s salary or stretching our savings was beyond my ability. Both Paul and I were concerned that the hospital bills and drug treatments, along with the lack of a job would cause us to lose our house. Paul would look to me for reassurance and I would tell him everything would be okay. When I would say it, it felt like a lie because I really didn’t know how it would be okay. I remember one day saying to God, I can’t do this on my own – I need You – Jesus, I trust in You. Things began to fall into place as far as having money coming in, stretching our meager savings and having health coverage. I know that on our own, we could never have solved those concerns as creatively as God did. I did not know about short-term and long-term disability; but am so thankful they exist. I am thankful for the person who clued me into filling out the paperwork and also for suggesting that I talk to the financial aid department at Roswell. There was a constant flow of monetary gifts and gift cards to grocery stores. The doctors found a

drug that kept the tumor from growing for close to a year and in dealing with the kind of cancer Paul had; that was a gift. Like a lot of marriages, we had our share of ups and downs and we had time to mend the fences that existed between us. God was watching over us and guiding every step; I knew it and could feel it. Even after Paul passed away, God was still watching over us. Because we had to change insurance companies, Nathan and Bethany had to switch doctors. For Nathan, that turned out to be a good thing. I shared different things with the new doctor about Nathan and he asked to do a genetic test. It turns out that Nathan has something called 22q11 deletion. This means that he is missing DNA on one of his 22 chromosomes. In Nathan’s case, it didn’t present itself like it typically does – heart defects, kidney defects and/or seizures. If Paul had never gotten sick, we never would have changed doctors and this never would have been diagnosed. Nathan’s thyroid was affected, which is being treated and this disorder can cause mental health issues – for which Nathan is being monitored. Because of the type of “disability” Nathan has, he has been approved to receive services, should he need them through the office of OPWDD. I’ve seen God’s hands in so much of what we experienced and I am filled with gratitude. Despite seeing and feeling all those blessings, I’ve also been feeling overwhelmed and scared in recent months. Stephanie has to have some blood work rechecked, as she might have some health issues. It came to my attention that Nathan had not been saving his money, but spending his paychecks foolishly. I made some adjustments to the way he could handle money and it wasn’t enough so I had to tighten up the reins even more. We are working on helping him use his money wisely. If you’ve had 18 years old, you know that no matter how you try to guide them,

they already have all the answers. I admit I have a short fuse when there are chores to be done and the kids don't see them and/or neglect to do them. These things, along with the busyness of the holidays were very stressful. After Paul passed away I wanted to sell the house, remodel the house, and get a new job and a whole lot of other crazy things. Someone told me – don't make any big decisions for a year. Now that that year is up and I've been putting pressure on myself to get another job and feeling overwhelmed on how I will work and juggle the home front. Between the concerns of the kids, the pressure of finding a job, changes to our Christmas traditions and many extended family members being sick, I have been feeling discouraged and hopeless. I found myself wondering what kind of job I should get, what kind of hours can I work, how can I help Heather with Liam, what if Stephanie has a chronic illness, what if Nathan can't handle money and gets himself in debt? What does God want me to do with this phase of my life? I have dreams and/or nightmares of Paul in hospice. These questions, along with the health concerns of many of my relatives were bringing me down. Everything was feeling hopeless and depressing. I found myself wanting to be a hermit and not visit with people. Feeling down began to affect my body, which affected my imagination. I was having panic attacks and they just kept snowballing. Finally on New Year's Eve, I had my sister take me to the ER because I couldn't snap myself out of the tizzy I'd worked myself into. The only way I would find "peace" was having the ER tell me I was fine. Nothing showed up, so they set me home, telling me to contact my doctor. When I went to church on New Year's Day, I heard The LORD said to Moses: "Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD blesses you and keeps you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD looks upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them." This reading, along with the homily filled me with hope. The Lord does want to bless me and keep me, He wants to let His face shine on me and be gracious to me. He wants to give me peace. Through so many situations in life, you'd think I would have learned that there are some things you just can't control. I can't control the outcome of Stephanie's bloodwork, I can't be with Nathan 24/7 to help him make sound decisions and I can't change the relatives that are sick. What I can do is trust that God is looking kindly upon me, will give me His peace and be gracious to me. I've also realized that exercise is a good stress reliever and I'm attempting to become more consistent in my exercise program. While I love to say the rosary, my consistency is not so good, so I'm making an effort to say it regularly, asking for Mary's intercession and guidance, along with St. Michael the Archangel. While things are not 100% better, I am finding myself a tad less stressed and I am finding my mood more hopeful and optimistic and less doom and gloom. I have decided if I am to return to work, it will probably have to be in the fall. Nathan and Bethany still need to be pushed to get their plans for vocational training and/or college nailed down. I am pushing myself to be busy doing things. I am thankful for time out to visit with family and friends. Nathan is working on plans to learn welding. It is my hope that between that and working; he will have less time to find trouble. I have found a counselor that will meet with us and hopefully she will be a good fit for Nathan to talk to. Saying the rosary or reading scripture has also been helpful in staying encouraged. I have met with my GP and we have a game plan to get

my anxiety under control. I am learning to put me before the kids in relation to some of their needs. I believe that if I continue to focus on MY physical, emotional and spiritual well-being (my tripod), I will get through this low period of uncertainty, because God does want make His face shine on me, be gracious to me, look kindly on me and to give me HIS peace. Ultreya.

February Reunion Mass

The next Reunion Mass is Feb. 10th at St. Jude the Apostle Parish at 800 Niagara Falls Blvd. in North Tonawanda. Rainbow Ultreya is hosting at 7:30 p.m. with a social to follow.

Ultreya Schedule for February

Bethany (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday February 2 & 16 @ 7:00pm
St. Martha's Parish

New Bethany Satellite (3rd Tuesday)

Tuesday February 21 @ 7:00 pm
Paul & Diane Gianadda
5060 Elmcroft Ct., Clarence

Full of Grace (Last Tuesday)

Tuesday January 31 @ 7:00 pm
Annunciation Church, Selbert Hall
Clinton Street, Elma

Pueblo de Paz (2nd Wednesday)

Wednesday February 8 after 7:00pm Mass
St. Mary's Church
6785 East Arcade Rd., East Arcade

Pueblo de Paz (Last Sunday)

Sunday February 26 @ 7:00pm
St. Mary's Church
23 Church St., Silver Springs

Rainbow Vineyard (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday February 2 & 16 @ 7:30 pm
Our Lady Czestochowa Church,
64 Center Ave, North Tonawanda
Witness speaker for 2/2 is Karen Trimper.

The Spirit of the City (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday February 2 & 16 @ 6:00 pm
The St. Jude Center in Downtown,
760 Ellicott Street, Buffalo. For information
please call Eva Tamoga @ 689-8431

Southtowns (1st & 3rd Thursday)

Thursday February 2 @ 7:30pm
Mike and Dawn Quinn's
532 South Shore Blvd. Lackawanna
824-8347 **Witness Speaker: Mike Szematowicz**

Thursday February 16 @ 7:30
Bob and Linda Piskun's
38 Bernadette West Seneca 998-2503
Witness Speaker: Bob Piskun

Sick List: Please keep the following people in your prayers and palanca: Maggie Evans, the Quinn children, Nina Prendergast, the Putt children, Don Montero

Please keep the Rhoney family as they mourn the loss of Irma who began her 5th Day.

Notable News: Some great news..... God really does answer our prayers!!! This is Carolyn McNamara letting everyone know that after all the many prayers for the healing of my son Dex's left eye we had a wonderful exam this morning. Dr. Kevin Komm said his vision in the left eye is now 20 ~ 60 a vast improvement from the 20 ~400 a year and a half ago. His new glasses will improve his vision to almost perfect. Dex had 3 major eye surgeries by Dr. Lema from the Ross Eye Institute, what a wonderful Doctor.

Dex is a pretty laid back guy, but those who know me.....I was ready to do the "HAPPY DANCE" To all of you who have kept Dex in your prayers thank you and Praise God.... Love and Peace, Carolyn and Dex McNamara

Cursillo Name Tags or Shirts can be ordered by mailing a check with name, weekend # and color preference for nametags: Contact Dennis Conklin for shirts.

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